

John Peacock on Plans for
the new Library. Cambridge

1831

The friends of the
the new society of friends
1842

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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

P L A N S

FOR

THE NEW LIBRARY,

&c.

BY A MEMBER OF THE FIRST SYNDICATE.

CAMBRIDGE:

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M.DCCC.XXXI.

ADVERTISEMENT.

I AM fortunately enabled, to distribute along with the following remarks, lithograph copies of the Ground and Library Plans in Mr. Cockerell's design and etchings, of the same in Mr. Rickman's: and I trust that by their aid, my readers will possess the power of estimating the validity of most of the arguments which I have ventured to advance. It may be proper to add a few words of explanation concerning them.

The Ground Plan of Mr. Cockerell's design exhibits the portion of the Building, which is proposed to be executed immediately, in a pink tint, the present Library or Buildings, which will remain untouched, in shade, and the rest in outline. The stoæ, which are not considered essential to the design, are given in outline only. The same observations may be extended to the Library plan which accompanies it. The neighbouring buildings and boundaries are also marked in shade or outline, for the purpose of exhibiting the position of the New Buildings with respect to them. It will thus be seen, that the front line of columns in the double colonnade is immediately in advance of the arcades of the present Library, and that the elevation of the new will coincide with that of the old Library: the passage through the whole building will lead to the south side of Clare Hall Chapel which may thus be seen from St. Mary's Church: the space in front of Clare Hall will be considerably enlarged; and the Senate House Passage will be widened to the extent of half its present width, by a sunken area, for the purpose of lighting the basement story.

The positions and boundaries of the neighbouring buildings are not given in Mr. Rickman's Ground Plan, but it may be adjusted to that of Mr. Cockerell, by attending to the following observations. The centres of the columns of

the advanced portico are 16 or 17 feet in advance of those in Mr. Cockerell's colonnade, and are in the same line with the end of the Senate House. The great flight of steps extends 9 or 10 feet in advance of the portico; the retired flanks of the front are 5 or 6 feet in advance of the corresponding flanks in Mr. Cockerell's plan and therefore in advance of those of the front of the present Library. The northern wall of the principal Building, coincides very nearly with the northern wall of the present Library, falling slightly within it. The front towards Clare Hall is very nearly in the same line with that in Mr. Cockerell's plan. If the dimensions of the interior Court be correct, the south side of the basement of the Building intrudes 5 feet upon the ground belonging to King's College: if not, the dimensions of the interior Court must be reduced accordingly. A line in the plan marks the termination of the present cross Library.

G. P.

TRINITY COLLEGE,
January 1, 1831.

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
PLANS PROPOSED FOR THE NEW LIBRARY,
&c.

ON the 3d of May, 1829, a Syndicate was appointed by a Grace of the Senate, for the purpose of considering the proper steps to be taken for enlarging the Public Library and building new Schools, Museums, and Lecture Rooms. The Members of this Syndicate were the Vice-Chancellor, the Bishop of Lincoln, the Master of Catharine Hall, Dr. Haviland, Mr. Carrighan, Mr. Hustler, Mr. Lodge, Professor Whewell, Mr. Shelford, Mr. Peacock, and Mr. King.

On the 2d of July, the Syndicate made the following Report to the Senate:

“The Syndicate consider it necessary that provision should be made, not merely for a large increase of the accommodation of the Public Library, but likewise for four additional Lecture Rooms, for Museums of Geology, Mineralogy, Botany, and, if practicable, of Zoology; for a new Office for the Registry; for an additional School for the Professor of Physic; and for other purposes connected with the dispatch of the ordinary business of the University.

“They consider the extent of ground now the property of the University, including the site of the present Library, as amply sufficient for all those objects.

“They consider it expedient that application should be made to four architects for complete plans, specifications, and estimates, to be forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor on or before the 1st of November next; that they should be

authorized to give the necessary instructions; to offer the sum of 100 guineas to each of the three architects, whose plans shall not be adopted; and to make a further Report to the Senate before the end of the next Term."

This Report was signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Haviland, Professor Whewell, Mr. Carrighan, Mr. Hustler, Mr. Peacock, Mr. Shelford, and Mr. Lodge; and the authority which was asked for in the last paragraph of the Report, was granted by a Grace of the Senate on the 6th of July.

Applications were immediately addressed to Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Cockerell, Mr. Rickman, and Mr. Burton, who severally accepted the terms of the competition, as proposed in the preceding Report; and the following Instructions, with ground plans of the existing buildings, were forwarded to them.

"Instructions for Architects respecting the building of Museums, Lecture Rooms, Schools, &c. and additions to the Public Library."

"It is required to provide for four Schools of Divinity, Law, Physic, and Arts, for an Office for the Registry, for Museums of Geology, Mineralogy, Zoology, and Botany, for three or four Lecture Rooms, for Workshops and Unpacking Rooms, connected with the several Museums, for a Model Room for the Jacksonian Professor, and also for the Apparatus of the Plumian Professor, for a very large increase of accommodation for Books for the Public Library, including a Room for the Librarian and Syndics, a Reading Room," &c.

"It is proposed to place the four Schools *en suite* on the side * next to King's Chapel. They are to be so constructed as to communicate with each other, when required, by large *double* folding doors, and thus to form a series of Examination or Lecture Rooms: the Professors' Pulpits to be moveable, or so constructed as not to interfere with those latter objects: the Law Schools to be placed at the east end, the Divinity Schools at the west, and to be somewhat longer than the

* In the original Instructions more particular references were made by letters to the corresponding parts of the Ground Plan which accompanied them.

other two: Galleries to be placed at the east end of the Law Schools, and at the west end of the Divinity Schools, for the accommodation of the Heads, Professors, Doctors, &c."

"At the eastern end of the Law School, it is proposed, if practicable, to place the Registry's Office and Record Room, the first about 20 feet by 15, communicating with the Law School and Record Room; the Record Room about 30 feet by 20 feet, to be fire proof, and to admit of being perfectly ventilated and warmed."

"On the north and western sides are to be placed *en suite*, the series of Museums of Geology, Mineralogy, Zoology, and Botany, and in that order: the first being upon the site of the present Divinity Schools, about 70 feet in length: the second about 30 feet, and the last 20 feet. The rest of the space to be allotted for the Zoological Museum. They must all of them admit of communication when required, by sliding double doors. No provision is to be made by the architects for the fittings of these rooms. With each Museum there must be connected a workshop or unpacking room, the two longest for the Geological and Zoological Museums."

"All these Schools and Museums must be well lighted, and admit, as much as possible, of perfect ventilation: the airing and warming of them, by heated air, to be provided for according to the most approved plans, and to serve likewise for the Library above."

"On the space between this range of Museums and Senate House Passage, it is proposed to place two Theatres for Lecture Rooms, one capable of containing from 4 to 500 people, the other from 250 to 300: also a smaller Lecture Room, capable of containing about 100 people. They must admit of communication with the Museums, and also with a Model Room for the Jacksonian Professor (about 40 feet by 30) and the small Lecture Room with the room for the apparatus of the Plumian Professor. The entrances to the Theatres and Workshops to be from the Senate House Passage. The Lecture Room for the Plumian Professor must be so placed, as to admit of the *introduction* of the sun's light for two or three hours in the middle of the day. The Lecture Rooms to be provided with desks. Any of these rooms may be placed

on the first floor, if such a plan be more convenient, and do not interfere with the arrangements of the Library."

"The Library is to occupy the whole of the first floor, above the Registry's Office, Schools, and Museums, so as to complete the rectangle. The front of the present Library (that is, the first floor) to be extended towards King's Chapel and Caius College, over the Schools and Museum: a projecting room towards Caius College on the first floor opposite the west end of the Senate House, for the use of the Librarian and Syndics: the present Cross Library to be retained, either supported entirely on arcades or with a passage through the centre: this may be extended also towards Senate House Passage, if practicable and consistent with the other objects described above, so as to form a Reading Room: the books to be placed on projecting cases as in the Library of Trinity College, which must be so constructed as to admit hereafter of the addition of Galleries."

"In case it is found that there is not on the south side sufficient space for the four Schools and the Registry's Office and Record Room, a portion of the west side may be taken, and in that case, the Divinity School would be upon the west side opposite to Clare Hall: to supply the space thus taken from the Museums, the Geological Museum may be placed on the east side, reaching from the Senate House passage to the south side of the North Library."

"The Syndics in proposing the above arrangements, beg to be understood as merely suggesting such plans as appear to them to be most convenient; but leave it to the Architects to make what alterations or modifications they may think right."

"The several fronts to be of stone."

"No particular style of architecture is prescribed."

"The plans and estimates to be sent to the Vice-Chancellor, on or before the first of November next; the plans to be drawn to a scale of eight feet to an inch; there must be four elevations in outline of the several fronts, and two perspective views, namely, south east and south west; to be *drawn* and tinted in Indian ink."

The Members of the Syndicate who assisted in drawing up the preceding instructions, were the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Ainslie), Dr. Haviland, Professor Whewell, Mr. Carrighan, Mr. Hustler, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Peacock, Mr. Shelford, and Mr. King: they were considered to be such as embodied most completely, the great objects which the University had in view and the opinions entertained by the different Members of the Syndicate of the best mode of effecting them: they suggested a precise arrangement of the succession and position of the several rooms, chiefly for the purpose of making their views more intelligible to the Architects, than could have been done by any more general statement of the wants of the University; but it was mentioned in the instructions themselves, and more expressly afterwards in private communications to the Architects, that they were perfectly at liberty to make such an arrangement and combination of the parts of the building as in their judgment would most completely satisfy the various purposes for which it was intended, and would be best adapted to all the circumstances of the site.

The Architects were referred to different Members of the Syndicate for further information connected with the instructions, and for the purpose of supplying any omissions in them: and it was through such channels that an enquiry was made whether any of the present buildings could be retained with advantage.

No sum was mentioned as the limit of the expense for which funds could be provided by the University, either now or hereafter: but it was signified to the Architects, that no part of the present Library or Schools could be removed, before provision had been made in the new buildings for the reception of the books and for carrying on the ordinary business of the University; it was therefore perfectly understood that the two parts of the buildings must be completed at different and probably distant periods of time; and it was merely considered necessary to have a complete plan in the first instance, with a view to its ultimate completion as one great and uniform design.

The question of the expediency of retaining any part of the present buildings was decided in the negative by the several Architects, in the reports which accompanied their first plans; and though the Syndicate considered it to be their duty to submit the decision of it to their judgment, in order to satisfy the scruples of many members of the University, yet they had anticipated, from their own observation, the conclusion to which they came: for the present Schools are dark, damp, crowded with pillars, and therefore not convertible into Lecture Rooms and hardly to any useful purpose. The Woodwardian Museum is a very wretched room, quite inadequate to hold, much less to exhibit, even a small part of the noble collection which has been formed by the exertions of the present Professor of Geology. The Registry's Office is badly lighted, and so damp and imperfectly ventilated, that a great part of the most valuable records of the University are now rotting in its closets. The south and west parts of the Library above, are narrow, low and extremely mean in character and appearance; whilst the clunch walls, of which all but the front Library is built, make it hazardous to attempt to increase their height, or to alter very materially the size and distribution of the lower windows.

The same observations apply with still greater force to the Old Buildings of Kings: for the rooms are considerably narrower than the present Public Library; and the position of all the floors, and therefore of all the windows, would require alteration before the upper part could be appropriated to the reception of books, or the lower part of them for Lecture Rooms or any other uses. And though a very general feeling exists in the University in favour of preserving the beautiful old gate way and the adjoining front, yet it is very obvious, that their existence in their original and unaltered form, would be quite inconsistent with even their partial adaptation to any purposes useful to the University, whilst any material alteration of them would destroy altogether the antiquarian character upon which their historical interest as monuments of a style of architecture may be said to depend.

In addition to the preceding reasons, it was further considered that the great expense of any adaptation of these ruinous and dilapidated buildings, to answer the wants of the University, would require a very considerable immediate outlay of money; whilst the constant and heavy charge of keeping them in repair, would make it extremely doubtful whether such a scheme would be advisable, when considered merely as a measure of economy.

Presuming therefore that every plan which the University could venture prudently to adopt, would lead to the ultimate removal of all the existing buildings, the Syndicate next proceeded to consider what would, in such a case, be the distribution and nature of the rooms, which were best calculated to satisfy the various objects which they had in view.

They placed the Record Room in the south-east angle of the building, in immediate connection with the office of the Registry and the Law School: for a room in such a situation would admit of perfect ventilation, a consideration of first rate importance for the preservation of the University Records; it was considered convenient likewise to place the Office of the Registry near the Senate House, whether used for consulting records, or for affixing the University seal, or for receiving fees; and the Law School, if placed in communication with it, could be used as a waiting room, when any considerable number of persons were required to be in attendance.

They placed the Schools of Law, Physic, Arts and Divinity, on the south side of the building, next to King's College: the first and last were required to be larger than the two others, with galleries at one end, for the reception of the Vice-Chancellor, Heads, and Doctors, when used for municipal purposes, or on occasions of ceremony: a School of Physic was added to those existing, partly as a compliment to that faculty, and partly in consequence of the occasional interference with each other of the Professors of Law and Physic in the use of the same school. It was proposed also to make all these Schools communicate with each other by folding doors, when required, so that they might be convertible immediately into a noble range of

Examination Rooms, for which the Senate House, as not admitting of being warmed, or as being wanted for other purposes, cannot always be applied; they considered that they might likewise be used for Lecture Rooms by those Professors who had no apparatus to prepare or no specimens to exhibit: such as the Regius and Norrisian Professors of Divinity, the Professors of Law and Physic, the Professors of Greek, Hebrew and Arabic, and the Professors of History and of Political Economy.

It was considered that a portion extending in length 170 feet on the side next to King's Chapel, would afford a space sufficient for those Schools, inasmuch as it would allow 50 feet in length for the Law and Divinity Schools, and 35 feet for each of the others: the least of these rooms if 30 feet wide, would hold conveniently 80 people, and the largest 130: if their width was 35 feet, they would hold 110 and 180 respectively, a number exceeding that of the largest class which has ever yet assembled in the University; and as more than two of these Professors would not give Lectures at the same hour, and as all the Schools would be unoccupied until one o'clock in each day, and two of them at least, upon an average, afterwards, they would furnish ample accommodation for all the Professors above mentioned, or for any other literary Professors, who might afterwards be added to their number.

There are at this time seven Professors in this University, whose lectures require the exhibition of specimens or of apparatus: these are the Plumian Professor, the Jacksonian Professor, and the Professors of Chemistry, Anatomy, Botany, Mineralogy, and Geology: of these, the Professors of Botany, Mineralogy, and Geology, would probably lecture in their own Museums, if such rooms were sufficiently well lighted and sufficiently wide for that purpose: the Plumian Professor, whose Optical Lectures require the frequent use of the sun's light, would require a room so situated as to admit of the introduction of it for two or three hours during the middle of the day: the Jacksonian Professor has an excellent Lecture Room in the Botanic Garden, which he might continue to use, but

the situation of which is perhaps too remote from the centre* of our academical population. The Professor of Chemistry has a room near Queen's College, now used by the Professor of Modern History, which is miserably dark and confined, and totally unfitted for the preparation and exhibition of his experiments. The Professor of Anatomy has a room in the same buildings, which, though sufficiently convenient for his purpose, is much too small for the accommodation of his class. It was considered expedient therefore to provide Lecture Rooms for as many of these Professors as possible, the nature of whose apparatus or experiments was not likely to interfere with the other objects of the building. Of this kind were anatomical dissections, to the neighbourhood of which many persons might object; or any experiments which might create a risk of fire, or the noise of which might disturb the repose of an establishment applied to so many uses. Upon these subjects however the Syndics felt considerable difficulties in coming to any determination, and, to a certain extent, it must be necessarily left to time and experience to decide the nature of the Lectures of experiment or exhibition which may be safely or conveniently given, in the places provided for them. It is true indeed that they gave instructions to provide an apparatus room for the Jacksonian Professor, though some doubts might be entertained whether the noise of a water-wheel or steam engine, when in operation, even upon the small scale of a working model, could be safely or properly tolerated in such a situation.

The Architects were directed to provide three Lecture Rooms, one to hold 100, the other 250 or 300, and the third 500 people. The last was proposed by some Members of the Syndicate to meet the wants of some great and extraordinary occasion: but it would clearly be much larger than can be necessary for any *continuous* Course of Lectures, and its size would therefore more frequently be a nuisance than a benefit:

* The Public Library is nearly the centre of our academical population, determined as the centre of position of the several Colleges, whose moments may be considered as the products of the numbers of their students and their distances from it.

and the enormous space which it must necessarily occupy, makes it an awkward and embarrassing member of every plan which has been hitherto proposed.

These three Lecture Rooms, the last being reduced to a more commodious and more manageable size, would be generally sufficient for those Professors whose experiments could be performed or specimens exhibited in them: for they would form, with the Museums, six Lecture Rooms for the scientific Professors: and if a Museum of Zoology, or more properly of Comparative Anatomy, could be added, there would be seven such rooms: these, combined with the Schools, would form a provision for a most noble series of public Lectures, in every branch of science, and in every department of literature, such as would be worthy of the University. And, inasmuch as they would all of them take place in the same building, and in the most central part of the University, it would become possible for the audience of one Lecture Room to pass immediately to another, without the serious loss of time which is now occasioned by the necessity of passing from one part of the town to the other.

The Museums of Geology, Mineralogy, Botany, and of Zoology, were directed to be placed *en suite*, and to communicate with each other by folding doors, or otherwise. They were required likewise to have distinct entrances, and also communications with their respective unpacking rooms or workshops. The Museum of Geology was directed to be made of very large dimensions (70 feet long) in order to accommodate the magnificent collection, which at present belongs to it and which is accumulating every year: the Museums of Botany and of Mineralogy were not required to exceed 30 feet square each, a size which was considered to be fully adequate to the collections which they would at any time be required to contain: the remaining space was directed to be appropriated to Zoology or to any other purpose which the University might prefer.

The want of such Museums had long been the reproach of the University, and has formed a subject of wonder and astonishment to foreigners visiting the University, with whom they constitute the very essence of an academical establish-

ment. It was true that very considerable collections of every kind existed in the University, but they could neither be shewn, nor easily used. The Woodwardian Professor of Geology has converted his own private rooms into a receptacle for a great part of his collections, where, in any other hands than his own, they would be altogether lost to the public and the students. The Professor of Mineralogy has been compelled to stow away the very fine collection of minerals, formed by the late Dr. E. D. Clarke, purchased by the University, into a garret in his own rooms, where it is quite inaccessible to the public and nearly so to himself: whilst the large and valuable collection of human and comparative Anatomy, formed by the present Professor and his predecessors, is crowded into a dark room near Queen's College, where a great part of the dry preparations are perishing from damp*.

It might be objected that the University is not in possession of funds for the supply of such Museums in a proper manner, in case they were provided: but such an objection would at all events not apply to the means of

* There are few Members of this University who are alive to its honour, who have not felt humiliated by a sense of these deficiencies, both when visiting Foreign Universities, and when shewing their own. The following circumstance, of very recent occurrence, will illustrate the nature of the feelings which are most commonly experienced on such occasions. The most illustrious naturalist in Europe, had proposed to visit Cambridge during the last summer, and was furnished with letters of introduction to several of our scientific Professors. Though they would have felt proud of any opportunity of shewing him respect, and would have considered themselves honoured by his presence among them, yet I know that they rejoiced to hear of the postponement of his visit, as it spared them the pain of exposing the nakedness of the land. Nay, so anxious was one of our most distinguished Professors to escape this very severe mortification, that he had nearly resolved to quit Cambridge at the time, though he would willingly have travelled any distance in order to enjoy the advantage of his society; if he had come among us he would have found Professors full of zeal and knowledge, who had neither Lecture Rooms nor Museums, which they could venture to shew; and the deficiency of that taste and ardour for the cultivation of natural knowledge, which has been too frequently, and perhaps too truly a subject of reproach to this country, would have ceased to excite surprise, when it was found that the very fountains of public instruction were thus scantily supplied.

exhibiting or preserving the collections which already exist; and I feel satisfied from past experience, that contributions would pour in from every quarter, in case they could be bestowed in places which were worthy of the gifts. The Professor of Geology has already a promise of casts of all the chief fossils in the Paris Museum, if he knew where to place them; and from the liberal spirit of mutual assistance which prevails amongst men of science and collectors of all kinds, I have no doubt but that this encouraging example would be followed generally: but I would trust more confidently to the patriotic spirit of our own Members; and as a just ground of hope, I would appeal to the example of the Philosophical Society, where a noble collection of birds was purchased without difficulty, by private contributions from the Members, and avowedly for the purpose of forming the basis of a General Zoological Collection, for the benefit of the University. A similar spirit has been shewn on other occasions whenever an opportunity has presented itself of acquiring other collections, which might promote the progress of natural science; and we may fairly conclude, that the same zeal which has animated the Members of the University, when confined to the benefit of a particular Society, would not be wanting to fill worthily a proper series of academical Museums.

There are other objections however to the formation of such Museums, which I feel some difficulty and some feeling of shame in noticing; it is contended that our system of academical education is general and not professional; and that as it is impossible to include any notice of such subjects, in our general course of instruction and examination, it is not expedient to divert the attention of our students from those subjects, which it is their duty to pursue. It is asserted also, that as the very essence and pride of our system, is the acquisition of accurate knowledge, and, since all our rewards are strictly regulated by it, the public encouragement of other studies, might endanger the supremacy of those which are peculiarly our own; and inasmuch as superficial knowledge *only* can result from a great diversity of pursuits, it is the duty of the University to limit

their range, by removing as much as possible, the temptation of diverging widely from the beaten paths of academical studies.

If this argument, (which is not an imaginary one, adduced for the mere purpose of refutation) was just, it would prove as much against the system of the University as it is, as against that which we should wish it to be. It is, and I trust it ever will be, the great object of the University, to encourage and reward the acquisition of accurate knowledge: but the advantages of such knowledge, are not confined to Classics or Mathematics, but may be derived in a very considerable degree at least, from the careful and accurate study of other sciences, whether natural, political, or moral; and whilst I acknowledge the wisdom of the choice made by the University of those studies to which her regular course of instruction is confined, and to proficiency in which her rewards are given, yet I think it an equally essential part of her system to discountenance superficial knowledge of every kind, and to undertake to teach no science, unless she teaches it completely; for it is by such means only that she can vindicate her proper rank and superiority, and entitle herself to be considered both at home and abroad, as one of the great public sources of genuine knowledge.

It is upon this principle, that I consider it the duty of the University, to discourage the delivery of Courses of Lectures which are merely popular, or which are so short as necessarily to become so: or rather, I should think it best to discontinue such Lectures altogether, as are not or cannot be given in a form calculated to teach the most advanced state of the sciences to which they belong. The want of Lecture Rooms has hitherto compelled many Professors to give mere sketches of Courses of Lectures, and has therefore brought the University into a disadvantageous comparison with other academical institutions, which our enemies have not hesitated to notice; and a similar consequence must ensue from the want of Museums and Collections, particularly in those cases where the power of exhibiting specimens is essential to those minutiae of detail, upon which accurate descrip-

tion, and therefore accurate knowledge must depend. The Professors of this University have laboured under both these disadvantages, and in a much greater degree than the meanest University on the Continent and even than the greater number of our own; and it is not a little honourable to the zeal and spirit with which they are animated, that they have struggled with so much energy and with so much success, particularly of late years, to promote the study of their respective sciences, notwithstanding the pressure of so many discouragements.

The University has recognized the importance of the same principle of teaching well, if she teaches at all, by a recent Grace of the Senate, respecting an increasing and a most important class of our students. Candidates for Medical degrees are *compelled* to attend the Lectures of the Professors of Physic, of Anatomy, and of Chemistry, in case their respective Courses extend to at least 50 Lectures, and in no other case: such a regulation was equally agreeable to the Professors of those sciences and creditable to the University; for it conferred upon their Lectures the character of a complete scientific Course, which was necessary to make them respected by the public, and really useful to those persons who attended them for the purpose of professional instruction; whilst its natural tendency would be, to convey to those persons who attended as amateur students, that severe and accurate knowledge, which should alone be recognized in this University, as really worthy of being taught or acquired.

I must return however from this long digression on the proper nature and object of our academical studies, and on the importance and even necessity of providing Museums and Collections of all the objects which are required for the illustration of the Public Lectures of the University. It was considered that there would be required collections of instruments and of apparatus connected with the lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy and the Mechanical Arts, a laboratory of Chemistry, a Museum of human and comparative Anatomy, of Geology, Mineralogy, Botany, and Zoology: and for all these objects, it was the duty and wish of the

Syndicate to make as complete a provision as the space would allow. They did not consider their decision respecting the position and magnitude of the several rooms to be used for these objects as final, but left them to be distributed and appropriated as circumstances and the wishes of the University might hereafter dictate. It was considered however that it would be a great advantage to the University, and a great convenience to the Professors, if their Museums were sufficiently spacious and well lighted, as to serve for Lecture Rooms, for those Professors, whose Collections were contained in them.

The Library was directed to be placed on the first floor over the Schools and Museums, so as to form a complete rectangle of 200 feet by 130: and provision was required to be made, by the addition of galleries, for the ultimate accommodation of 300,000 volumes. It was true that many years must elapse before so considerable a space could be filled; but the building was intended to be one of a lasting character, which might satisfy the wants and expectations of our successors, as well as of ourselves. It was also directed that the books should be placed upon projecting cases, as in the Library of Trinity College: but the particular arrangements of the Library, as well as of the other Buildings, were expressly committed to the judgement and taste of the Architects.

It was directed that all the principal fronts should be of stone, inasmuch as any other material would have been unworthy of a great public building, placed in one of the most conspicuous parts of the University.

The plans which were formed by the four Architects, in consequence of the preceding instructions, were forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor, on the first of November; and on the 25th of the same month, the following Report was made to the Senate.

“The Syndicate appointed ‘to consider the arrangements to be made with respect to the Old Court of King’s College,’ beg leave to make the following Report to the Senate.

“They *unanimously* agree, to recommend Mr. Cockerell’s Plan for adoption, as being on the whole, the best adapted to answer the objects which the University have in view.”

This Report was signed by the Vice-Chancellor, (Dr. Chafy,) the Bishop of Lincoln, Dr. Haviland, Mr. Carrighan, Mr. Hustler, Mr. Shelford, Professor Whewell, Mr. Lodge, and Mr. Peacock: the Master of Catharine Hall was absent from indisposition, and Mr. King was detained by important University business. The first draught of the Report did not contain the word *unanimously*, which was added at the request of a most distinguished Member of the Syndicate, who had expressed some doubts respecting the preference given to Mr. Cockerell's plan, but whose opinion had been determined in its favour by some observations made at the time.

It was perhaps unfortunate that the Report did not state more expressly, that the decision of the Syndicate was comparative and not absolute. Nothing indeed could be further from their intention, than to recommend to the Senate the adoption of Mr. Cockerell's plan, without most material alterations: and it was extremely improbable that any plan could have been proposed in the first trial, which would satisfy all the wishes and wants of the University, where so many different objects were to be combined, so many difficulties to be overcome, so many conflicting interests and claims to be reconciled, and where the instructions as might be expected, required more to be done, than was practicable under the circumstances of the situation or under the imposed conditions, some of which were not consistent either with good taste or good construction. They considered however that Mr. Cockerell had more completely, than any other Architect, satisfied the conditions of the very difficult problem proposed; and they conceived that it was their duty, in conformity with the terms of the competition, that they should recommend the University to award to him the prize of being employed to prepare all future plans, and to superintend the execution of any one which might be finally adopted.

The decision of the Syndicate was the result of a very careful, and I believe of a very dispassionate examination of the different plans, and it was made on the part of seven at least out of nine Members who signed it, without hesi-

tation or reserve. Without presuming to dictate to the University upon a subject, about which every Member of the Senate was so greatly interested, and about which, every one, who was willing to examine, was equally capable of judging with themselves, they certainly expected that more deference would have been paid to their opinion than it received. The Architects themselves must have considered that decision as nearly final, as far as the terms of the competition were concerned; and the public generally must have formed a very strong opinion of the popular or perhaps democratic nature of our Academical constitution, when the solemn and nearly unanimous judgement of a body of men, constituted by the University, to whom some degree of authority was supposed to be delegated, was or rather would have been, if proposed, rejected almost with indignation.

The Syndicate certainly considered themselves, however erroneously, as possessing a delegated authority with respect to this competition, otherwise they would not have ventured to compromise either the Architects or themselves, by venturing to *publish* any opinion on the subject, but would have committed the decision of it at once to the public voice.

The Observatory Syndicate had been constituted with the same power delegated by the same form of words; and they incautiously presumed to exercise the same authority in the present case, which had been allowed without controversy in the former. It is true that the Sydicate in question was unfortunate in incurring, during the execution of the work, both odium and a most serious responsibility, by acting without proper authority. But those errors and their punishment, had no connection with the selection of the Architect from amongst the different competitors, nor with the propriety of the details of the plan which they finally recommended, and which the University immediately adopted.

Whatever, however, might have been the opinion of many Members of the Senate on the selection made by the Syndicate, their decision was final with respect to those Members of the Syndicate who *approved* of the Report. They violated therefore no point of delicacy with respect to the other Architects, in immediately communicating to Mr. Cockerell, their

objections to parts of his plan, as well as their opinion of a suggestion contained in a second plan which he had forwarded along with the former, which extended the principal building to the extremity of the ground belonging to the University on every side. They certainly encouraged him to persevere in his efforts, to render his plan in every way worthy of the approbation of the University; and it was in consequence of these suggestions, that he immediately devoted himself to the formation of a new plan, which was forwarded to one of the Members of the Syndicate, in the course of the month of March 1830.

In the mean time, so extraordinary a degree of excitement prevailed in the University respecting the different plans, and in opposition to the Report of the Syndicate, that the new plan in question could neither be publicly shewn nor impartially considered: a large and powerful party supported the claims of a Grecian design of Mr. Rickman or Mr. Hutchinson, and did not hesitate to accuse the Members of the Syndicate of want of taste, *at least*, in the judgement they had given: others contended that the Syndicate had exceeded the powers entrusted to them in presuming to express an opinion on the subject and in not committing the whole affair to the free and unbiassed decision of the Senate at large: whilst many others considered it expedient to stop all farther proceedings concerning them, until a full inquiry had been made into the state of the funds of the University, in order to ascertain whether the means existed, or could be provided, for carrying any of these plans into execution.

This last enquiry was not unreasonable, but the Syndicate considered the first part of it unnecessary, at the commencement of their labours, inasmuch as it had been made the subject of the Report of a Syndicate on this and other subjects at the beginning of the year: and they considered that they would act most wisely in deferring any particular investigation into the means of raising extraordinary funds, until such time as the plans were completed, and some opinion could be formed of the sum which it would be necessary to raise: at all events, they were not authorized, by the terms of their appointment, to make any such enquiry,

and it was unquestionably unjust to accuse them of not furnishing information, which had never been asked for at their hands. The subject however had been one of frequent and anxious discussion amongst them, and they were prepared to have expressed an opinion upon it at the proper season. It is merely necessary to observe, in their justification, that they never intended to commit the University to the expenditure of a single shilling beyond the sum necessary for the preparation of the plans, before the funds for their execution, in whole or in part, had been provided.

The University continued in a state of considerable agitation, as far as this subject was concerned, until the end of May, notwithstanding several attempts which were made to produce a calm. On the 31st of May, the following conciliatory Grace was proposed, by Mr. Thorp of Trinity College, and carried without opposition:

“Placeat vobis, ut Dominus Procancellarius, Dr. French, Dr. Ainslie, Dr. Turton, Professor Whewell, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Martin Thackeray, Mr. Blick, Mr. Jones, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Graham, Mr. Sheepshanks, Mr. King, Mr. Shelford, Mr. Cape, Mr. Dawes, Mr. Hildyard, Mr. Studholme, et Mr. Gibson, Syndici nominentur, qui de bibliotheca vestrâ amplificandâ, de Auditoriis Museisque quibus opus fuerit exstruendis consulant, respectu habito ad Gratias super hâc re jamjam a vobis concessas; necnon inquirant quibus potissimum rationibus facultates idoneæ ad ea opera efficienda comparari possint: denique de his omnibus aut simul aut separatim, ante proximum terminum finitum referant ad Senatum.”

In consequence of this Grace, a letter was addressed to each of the Architects, inviting them to a new competition, announcing to them that they must consider all that had hitherto been done by the University as completely cancelled. Whatever opinion might have been entertained of the delicacy and justice of this proposition, it was perhaps the only course left, under the very extraordinary circumstances in which the University had been placed: the Architects however acceded to the proposal made to them, and were furnished in the course of the month of July with the following instructions.

I. "It is required to provide Museums of Geology, Mineralogy and Botany; three Lecture Rooms; an Unpacking Room, attached to each Museum; a large Model Room for the Jacksonian Professor, an Apparatus Room for the Plumian Professor; a new Public Library with greatly increased accommodation for Books; also a Room for the Librarian and Syndics; an Office for the Registrary; four Schools of Divinity, Law, Physic and Arts.

II. "In the line of the present North Library, on the ground floor, are to be placed the Museums of Geology, Mineralogy and Botany; the first being at the Western extremity of this line, 70 feet long; the next, to the East of this, 30 feet long; the rest of the North side being appropriated to the Botanical Museum and other uses; a Lecture Room for the Plumian Professor being provided at its Eastern extremity.

III. "At the Eastern extremity of the present South Library, on the ground floor, it is proposed to place the Registrary's Office and Record Room; the first about 30 feet by 20 feet, communicating with the Law Schools and Record Room; the Record Room also about 30 feet by 20 feet*.

IV. "On the South, and if necessary the West Side, it is proposed to place the Four Schools, the Law School being next the Registry†.

V. "On the space between the range of Museums (II), and Senate-House Passage, it is proposed to place two large Lecture Rooms; one capable of containing from 400 to 500 persons, the other from 200 to 300.

* To be fire-proof, and to admit of being perfectly ventilated and warmed.

† They are to be constructed as to communicate with each other, when required, by large double folding doors, and thus to form a series of Examination or Lecture Rooms. The Professors' Pulpits must be moveable, or so constructed as not to interfere with these latter objects. The Divinity Schools to be at the West, and to be somewhat longer than the other two: Galleries must be placed at the East end of the Law Schools, and at the West end of the Divinity Schools, for the accommodation of the Heads, Professors, Doctors, &c.

VI. "The Museums, the Model Room for the Jacksonian Professor, and the Apparatus Room for the Plumian Professor, to have as intimate and near a communication as possible with those parts of the Lecture Rooms where Models, Specimens, &c. are to be placed during the Lecture, so that such articles may be transferred without the necessity of passing into the open air, or of moving them to a considerable distance.

VII. "The Library to occupy the whole of the first floor over the Museums, Schools, &c., so as to form a complete hollow square. The room for the use of the Librarian and Syndics, to be on the first floor if possible, but neither this room nor the staircase to interfere with the above arrangement of the Library. The Books to be placed in projecting cases as in the Library of Trinity College, and these to be so constructed as to admit hereafter of the addition of galleries.

VIII. "All the Museums and Schools to be well-lighted, and to admit as much as possible of perfect ventilation: and to be aired by heated air, which may likewise serve for the Library above.

IX. "It is intended to execute at present only a part of the plan, and to leave the whole of the existing Library untouched; connecting it temporarily with the additions to it which shall be first built. It is proposed to begin with the Museums forming the North side, between the present Registry and the Western boundary of the ground; adding on the West side a room to be occupied by the Botanical Professor till the rest of the plan can be executed; the story above these rooms forming the addition to be at present made to the Library. It is proposed also to build the Lecture Rooms adjoining Senate-House Passage, providing as soon as possible one Lecture Room and an accompanying Model Room for the Jacksonian Professor.

X. "The sum to be at present expended not to exceed £25,000; and estimates of the expense of the part described in the last paragraph to be sent along with the Plans.

XI. "The fronts to be of stone.

XII. "The style of Architecture to be Grecian.

XIII. "The Plans and Estimates of the whole Building to be sent to the Vice-Chancellor, on or before the 10th of October next; the Plans to be drawn to a scale of 8 feet to an inch."

The preceding instructions are principally copied, with one or two important variations, from those which had been given before: they retain the enormous Lecture Room, which had been generally condemned as misplaced or unnecessary; and they seemed to be more solicitous about the Jacksonian Model Room and the Unpacking Rooms to the several Museums, than the former Syndics: they determined likewise the style of the Architecture, the sum to be expended upon the part to be immediately executed, and likewise the number and precise position of the several rooms to be provided.

The first Syndicate never presumed to undertake the responsibility of any absolute distribution of the parts of the building, contenting themselves, and I think wisely, with pointing out the precise wants of the University: a great number however, of that body had gladly seized a suggestion of Mr. Cockerell's, and had warmly recommended its adoption; and it appeared in an amended plan which he had forwarded to the University, at their request, the principle of which was very generally known to different Members of the University, and was, at all events, entitled to a fair and candid consideration: it did therefore seem very extraordinary, that the new instructions should only present *one* essential variation from the former, in prescribing a fixed arrangement, which, if followed, must compel Mr. Cockerell to abandon altogether a plan, which had received the approbation of persons both qualified and authorized to form an opinion of its merits. It would at least have been more becoming, in the Members of the new Syndicate, to have adhered to the prudent forbearance of their predecessors, in this as well as in other particulars.

The second instructions differed from the former, in being more limited in the objects which they proposed to effect: they said, we *will* have a Record Room, Registry's Office, four Schools, three Museums, and one Lecture Room,

and *nothing more* in the range of buildings beneath the Library, extending over a length of 520 feet. They did not allow the enquiry to be made, whether this enormous space would not allow a Museum of Zoology or of Comparative Anatomy, as well as accommodation for many other objects, of great importance to the University: and it certainly appears to me, that if the old instructions had erred in demanding too much, the new instructions erred at least as much in demanding too little.

Plans were sent in to the Vice-Chancellor, in conformity with the preceding instructions, by Mr. Cockerell, Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson, and Mr. Wilkins, and were soon afterwards placed in the Public Library, for the inspection of the Members of the Senate: the following observations will be chiefly confined to the two first, which have almost exclusively attracted (whether justly or not is another question) the attention of the University.

The building proposed by Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson forms a rectangle, whose adjacent sides are 200 and 137 feet, enclosing a court which is 110 feet by 63:* its front is coextensive with that of the present Library. Its longer sides form the prolongation of the south and north sides of the present Library, and its west front coincides nearly with the present front of the Old Court of King's College: the two principal Lecture Rooms, with workshops, and rooms for the reception of Apparatus and Models, are placed between the Library and Senate House Passage: the whole building, which is of a single order, is raised upon a basement which is 7 feet high towards St. Mary's, and 12 feet high towards Clare Hall: it is not our intention to attempt to describe its general external character, which is unquestionably not destitute of nobleness, but which presents no peculiar character of appropriateness either to the

* These measurements as well as others which I shall give hereafter, are taken either from Mr. Rickman's own statements or from his plans which are drawn to a scale: the breadth of the court as given in the plan is 68 feet, that of the present court being 69: I cannot possibly however give it a breadth greater than 63 feet consistently with the assigned dimensions of the Schools and Museums.

situation in which it is placed, or to the purposes for which it is destined.

The principal entrance to the building is by a flight of 11 steps, leading to a vestibule, which the visitor would naturally expect to be upon a level with the floors of all the surrounding rooms. If he proceeds onwards however he will find a descent of 6 steps to the level of the area of the interior court and the entrances of the Museums and Schools. The court itself is narrow and deep,* studded with windows of all sizes, and in all positions, some descending from the cornice, and others rising nearly from the ground: on his left he will find a colonnade, covering the entrances of the several schools, and designed for the use and protection of processions, on occasions of ceremony. It is hardly necessary to remark that such a mode of entering a building is extremely unnatural as well as inconvenient, and is altogether destructive of the beautiful perspective effect which a regular and well ordered interior, on a level with the entrance, should naturally present. It is however one of the least of the many sacrifices which are made in this plan to the exterior character of the building.

The Record Room, the Registry's Office, and the four Schools, are placed in succession on the side next to King's Chapel, and to Clare Hall: their width is 32 feet, their height $26\frac{1}{2}$. A double row of columns, extending throughout all the Schools, divides them into three equal parts: the three first communicate with each other by folding doors; but the School of Arts, which is opposite to Clare Hall, is separated from the others by a passage which leads to the gallery of the Divinity School.

In the first place, these Schools occupy a space which is altogether disproportioned to their importance or uses, extend-

* The height of this court is 55 feet, exceeding by 20 feet the height of the present south Library: there are very few points in it from which the pinnacles of King's College Chapel would be visible and still fewer from which the sun could be seen during the three winter months: there is no court belonging to any College in Cambridge the relation between whose width and height is not at least twice as great: it is proper to observe however that this is a fault of the last instructions and not of the Architect.

ing over a length, including walls and passage, of 220 feet. In the second place, the columns by which they are crowded would prevent their being used as Lecture Rooms, inasmuch as no voice could make its way through so many obstacles.* In the third place, they are lighted by windows on *one* side only, 13 feet *above the floor*, many of which are placed behind projecting columns. It would necessarily follow therefore that the side next the windows would be always in shade and generally in darkness, and the rooms would be, upon the whole, worse lighted and worse ventilated than the present schools: this is another consequence of the exterior character of the building, which admits of one row of windows only, the size and position of which are determined or nearly so, by the rules of the Order.

The Museums succeed to the Schools, and occupy altogether a length of 132 feet. They do not form a continuous range, the succession being broken by the intrusion of a dark closet in the Museum of Mineralogy. The Geological Museum whose length is 72 feet is blocked up on one side by the School of Arts to the extent of 34 feet and on the other, for nearly the same space, by the great Theatre: it is lighted by windows on the south, descending to within $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet of the ground: by similar windows on the north, looking towards a small area adjoining the great Theatre; and by three windows on the west, looking towards Trinity Hall, which are 12 or 13 feet above the floor of the room: the lights from these windows, intersecting each other in this singular manner would produce a very strange and probably a very inconvenient effect: and the absence of symmetry in the room itself occasioned by such a position and distribution of the windows, would be at least awkward, if not extremely offensive. The Museums of Mineralogy and Botany, each 30 feet in length, are lighted by large windows looking into the interior

* It is proper to notice that the Architect does not think the introduction of these columns necessary: but it does no honour to his judgement that he should have imagined for one moment that their existence could be reconciled either with the declared uses of these rooms or with the very imperfect and insufficient provision for lighting them which he has made.

court and by others looking into two narrow courts or passages,* which would be necessarily so dark, as to furnish no sufficient light, even to remove the shade from cases which might be placed so as to intercept the southern light. All the Museums are provided with Unpacking Rooms to a much greater extent than can be required, some of which are lighted, and others not: of the latter kind is a large room allotted to the Botanical Museum, which could never be used for any useful purpose: it is extremely doubtful likewise whether such Museums could, with such imperfect and irregular lighting, be used for Lecture Rooms by the Professors to whom they severally belong.

The Plumian Lecture Room is placed in the north-east corner of the Building: it is $32\frac{1}{2}$ feet square, 26 feet high, and lighted by three windows, which are 14 feet above the floor where the Lecturer is placed, and which are also placed behind projecting columns, which are themselves masked by an advanced colonnade; under such circumstances, the Lecturer would be placed in the shade, and the little light there was would be thrown upon his audience: it is proper to observe however that the Plumian Professor thinks that such a room would sufficiently answer his purpose in case the

* These two courts form a passage between the Plumian apparatus room, the small Lecture room, the Jacksonian model room on one side and the Plumian Lecture room, the Botanical unpacking room and the Botanical and Mineralogical Museums on the other: on the East, there is a doorway and the passage of communication between the Library and Librarian's room: on the West there is the great Theatre: it is divided into two courts, by the connection between the Library and the room for the Library Syndicate: the general width at the bottom is 10 feet, but the court in front of the Mineralogical Museum expands to the width of 18 feet, at the height of 12 feet from the ground: there is not one of the buildings enclosing them which is less than 45 feet in height, and the reader may from thence form some notion of the quantity and direction of the light which can descend through them to the adjoining Museums. They would admit of no kind of ventilation, and unless carefully and constantly cleansed, would become a nuisance to every room in their neighbourhood: in case of a snow storm from the north or north-east, it would inevitably intercept all the snow which would be driven against the upper part of the Library, and would very probably inundate the adjacent Museums before it could be cleared away.

present disposition of the benches was changed and the Lecturer placed in the north of the room.

We now return to the principal entrance, and to the two grand staircases, occupying altogether 63 feet in length by 54 in depth. An area of such magnitude, devoted to such a purpose, would naturally excite expectations of an approach of truly royal magnificence. Let the visitor, however, conceive himself placed in the vestibule, a room of no great dimensions and only 19 feet high, with a narrow passage before him, leading into the interior court and presenting for reasons which we have mentioned before, an extremely mean and unnatural perspective: he may then ascend two steps on the right hand or on the left, and he will find himself in a dark room at the foot of a noble staircase, which is perfectly similar and equal to its antagonist on the opposite side; *but which, from no point of view, can be seen at the same time.* Observing however, that the mere duplication of these staircases, does not contribute to increase the magnificence of the entrance, he will naturally conclude that they possess important and distinct uses, leading to different parts of the Library, or calculated to introduce him most advantageously to the perspective of long and noble rooms; unfortunately however he will be again disappointed in this very reasonable expectation; he will find that they conduct him into two points of the same room, merely 44 feet apart from each other, into spaces where he will see neither windows nor sky-light, where he is enclosed by projecting cases on his right hand and on his left, with similar projections surmounted by a blank gallery of books immediately before him; and he will probably conclude that it would have been more prudent at least to have contrived a less ostentatious approach to so mean a termination.

Underneath these staircases, are provided an Unpacking Room for the Library and a robing room for the Doctors and Professors, which might easily be converted to other and more useful purposes: the whole of the remainder of this enormous area of nearly 3000 square feet, is occupied by

the entrance and the two staircases, one of which only could serve any useful purpose or be allowed to be used in case it was provided.*

The Library itself is 32 feet wide by 24 feet high, a relation of height and width, which may be pleasing in a room of 50 or 60 feet in length, but which must cease to be so, when its length is twice or three times as great. It is fitted up with projecting cases, with a gallery above those which are attached to the exterior wall. There are no external windows, except in the north-west corner where they do not interfere either with the frieze or cornice, or with the Lecture Rooms which abutt against it: but there are windows looking towards the Court, extending from a height of $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the floor to the cornice of the cieling, and a sky-light over each of the four angles of the Library, and one in the centre of the principal front.

The most superficial examination of this plan, would shew that this provision for lighting the Library, is altogether insufficient. The windows, rising at the height of $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the floor, would leave all the portions of the wall beneath or between them constantly in shade; and when the effect of the projecting cases in intercepting light is considered, it is very obvious that there would be many positions in the Library in which it would not be possible to read even the titles of the books on the shelves. In the *Bibliothèque du Roi* at Paris, there are windows on one side looking into a court, as in the present plan: the windows are proper French windows, rising from the floor to within three feet of the cieling, and the rooms are totally free from all projecting cases, the books being arranged upon the flat surface of the walls: yet even in the bright sky of Paris, there is only just sufficient light to fill the room, whilst the books between the windows are

* In the present Library, one of the two entrances only is allowed to be open generally, for reasons which it is not necessary to explain: and it is an arrangement of no small importance that persons entering or leaving the Library should pass through the room where the Library keeper is stationed and where the tickets are deposited.

almost entirely invisible.* It is very easy to imagine therefore the very inconvenient darkness of the proposed room, in the ordinary state of our atmosphere during the winter months.

The front Library however is in a much more deplorable situation with respect to light than those we have just been describing: in this space extending 137 feet in length from north to south and 53 upon each of the returns, making altogether 245 feet upon the external wall and 167 feet upon the central line, there are only three windows between the entrances which are placed immediately beneath a roof which projects more than 20 feet beyond them and three small skylights: in the spaces near the entrances and upon the returns, it would be impossible to read a word without the aid of artificial light.

If we now proceed to the north-west corner of the Library, we find three external windows introduced, which may be considered as a confession on the part of the Architect, of the serious sacrifices made by their exclusion from all other parts. Their existence however in their present position, whilst it unquestionably improves the lighting of the West Library, interrupts the range of the gallery, and destroys the uniformity of plan and arrangement, which might otherwise have been pleaded as a merit.

It may be worth while to trace more particularly the alterations of light and darkness, which present themselves in passing round this Library: suppose a spectator upon entering at the north door, to walk from the dark space before him until he comes underneath the north eastern skylight: he will then find himself at the distance of more than 45 feet from any window or skylight whatever: upon advancing down the north Library, through a space of 25 feet without a window on either side, he will find the light constantly increasing until it reaches its maximum at the north-west corner with its skylight and three external windows: upon turning down the west Library, he will be surprised that the wall opposite to him is not pierced by

* The quantity of light required for a Library is generally greater than that which is required for an ordinary room, in consequence of the dull colour of the books on the walls from which very little light is reflected.

windows similarly to that behind him; and when he reaches the south-west corner, he will be struck by the contrast between the quantity of light in the two ranges of the Library before him: in passing through the south Library round the south-east corner, he will traverse similar dark spaces to those which he found upon his first entrance; and after passing beneath the central skylight and before the obscure windows between the doors, he will find himself in the same dark space from which he commenced his circuit.

Though the capital defect of this Library is its deficient lighting, yet it possesses many others which are almost equally discreditable to the taste and skill of the Architect. If we wish for a good example of effecting the transition from one room with projecting cases, to another at right angles to it, a problem of no small difficulty, I would refer to the Manuscript Room of the present Public Library, and to the beautiful expedients by which Mr. Cockerell has effected it in the corners of the Library which he has proposed. If on the contrary we should wish for a good example of a similar transition, effected without skill, I would refer to every corner of the present plan: for inasmuch as the projecting cases upon the external wall cannot be continued round the corner, without impinging upon each other and forming a dark closet, they are discontinued on one side of it only, where there is no architectural reason for the selection of one side in preference to the other: such an occurrence is extremely embarrassing, when as in the case before us, a choice must be made and when the arrangements which follow, though under perfectly symmetrical circumstances, cease to be symmetrical: no attempt however is made to evade this very serious difficulty in the plan before us*.

Again, let us look at the few straggling columns introduced towards the same parts, though accompanied by no

* It is very difficult to imagine where the lock-up classes are to be placed: if upon the exterior wall they will receive no light: if upon the interior wall, they will intercept the light which is absolutely necessary for the portion of the Library opposite to them.

corresponding variation in the Architecture of the room, which should lead us to expect them in one place rather than another.

I have now examined nearly all the rooms contained in the principal building, with particular reference to their uses and destination, and I think I have very sufficiently shewn, that there is not one of them which has not been more or less sacrificed to the exterior character of its Architecture. I have likewise shewn that there is a total want both of simplicity and of symmetry in the internal arrangements, a most extravagant waste of space, and a consequent failure in providing the quantity of accommodation which the extent of the building admits of, and which the University requires. Above all, I have pointed out in a more especial manner, the nearly universal want of light, an objection which should alone be fatal to the adoption of this plan, if the other conditions proposed had been completely and satisfactorily fulfilled.

Some of the admirers of this plan, while they admit the existence of its defects, contend that it is proper to allow the Architect an opportunity of amending his plan and of removing some at least, if not all, of these causes of complaint. But I would beg leave to observe in reply, that the present plan is a second attempt, the first having been rejected almost unanimously by the Syndicate appointed to examine it, and chiefly for defects similar to those above noticed; that the Architect was fully sensible of the nature of those objections, and that his want of success in attempting to overcome them now, affords no great promise of his being able to do so hereafter; and, lastly, that the question at present to be decided is not the extent and nature of his possible resources, but whether he has fairly beaten his competitors in an open competition, to which they were publicly invited by the University, upon a solemn promise and understanding that equal justice would be done to them.

But, without discussing the probability of *torturing** this plan into a form which may satisfy even the reasonable scru-

* I use this term advisedly, inasmuch as I feel satisfied that unless the whole principle of the plan is abandoned, there exists no reasonable prospect of its being adapted, by any modification, to meet the wants of the University :

ples of its admirers, I will again call the attention of my readers to some other parts of it as it exists, which have not hitherto been noticed. Let us look at the elevation next to Clare Hall, and its magnificent basement 12 feet in height; if we should venture to pierce it for windows, the character of solidity, which constitutes the principal beauty of the building, is from that instant destroyed: yet such windows might light a basement story, extending underneath the whole front, which would be applicable to a great variety of useful purposes. The Architect himself has alluded to the possibility of providing such a basement story, but he has suppressed all mention of the mode in which the light must be provided: if it come from the interior court, the basement story can only extend for 50 feet on the west side, and must be discontinued at the very points where its existence would be most useful. The impossibility of admitting the light externally for such an object is another proof how completely irreducible such a building is to the purposes for which it is intended.

Again the height and character of this basement, as well as a due respect for the symmetry of the elevation above it, which would admit of an entrance in the centre of the front only,* do not allow the existence of a passage of communica-

the fact is, that it bears every mark of having been formed in the first instance without any proper reference to its object and every contrivance to reduce it afterwards to suit more completely its specific destination has the appearance of being forced and unnatural: in the first plan which was sent in, the Library was lighted from the roof entirely, an expedient which suited precisely the external character of the building: when however the unhappy experience of a similar attempt made in the new building of the British Museum, which was also of a single order, compelled its author to abandon it, we find a new artifice introduced for lighting the interior, which, while it remedies some defects, introduces a multitude of others which are equally serious, in consequence of its being forced into the design and not arising naturally from it: it is the neglect of that great principle of all good and useful architecture, *that the exterior of a building should be in all cases adapted to the purposes of the interior*, which has more or less vitiated the proper arrangement and lighting of every room throughout this building.

* Such an entrance must pass through the centre of the School opposite: if the passage to the gallery of the Divinity School was continued, it would come out on one side of the front and would require a staircase of at least 16 steps.

tion from Clare Hall to the interior of the quadrangle, which would not only be extremely convenient but almost necessary, for many reasons which it is not necessary to notice.

The existence of this basement also which is absolutely essential to a building of a single order, makes it necessary to raise the whole building at least 4 feet higher than would be required by the heights of the two ranges of rooms which it contains, and thus adds greatly to the expense of the structure without increasing its means of accommodation: it likewise depresses the floors of the lower rooms to a most inconvenient depth below the windows: it prevents all entrances to the interior quadrangle except from one point and even renders that solitary approach inconvenient and unnatural: in conclusion, it may be considered as the source of nearly all the irremediable defects which we have pointed out in the lower story of this building.

The Lecture Rooms on the north of the Library are calculated for the accommodation of 500 and 200 persons respectively: between them is placed the Model Room of the Jacksonian Professor, and at the extremity next the Senate House is the Apparatus Room of the Plumian Professor. Above these Rooms are placed rooms for the Syndics of the Library and for the Librarian, communicating with the Library through passages which divide and terminate the narrow courts which we have noticed before (p. 25). I see no objection to this arrangement except its interference with the lighting of the adjacent Museums, a fault which is rather chargeable upon the instructions of the Syndicate than upon the Architect.

It has been urged as an argument in favour of the adoption of this plan, in preference to that of Mr. Cockerell, that it admits of the more easy and immediate adaptation of the new buildings to the old; for the new Library will be in the same line with the present Buildings and the Lecture Rooms will come behind them without any interference with their present uses. A very little consideration however, would shew that this argument is altogether unfounded. For the floor of the new Library would be 12 feet above that of the old, and whatever communication is

attempted to be made between them must be through a hole passing above the north-west window of the present Library. In Mr. Cockerell's plan, the new Library would at one point nearly touch the old;* but inasmuch as the floor of one would be only 5 or 6 feet above that of the other, it would be found on a level, or nearly so, with the bottom of the present side windows, through which a very easy communication might be immediately established. In Mr. Cockerell's plan there is a private staircase to the Reading Rooms and therefore to the new Library, next to Trinity Hall: in Mr. Rickman's plan, all entrances to the new Library must be temporary until the whole is completed. Again, in Mr. Rickman's plan, the present Record Room would be immediately destroyed, and the Woodwardian Museum would have one of its windows blocked up; whilst in Mr. Cockerell's plan they would remain untouched. In the first plan, the Lecture and Apparatus Rooms would come within 10 feet of the side windows of the Divinity School and the Library; in the second plan, the new buildings would be nearly in contact with them, but would leave the present large north-west window and the three north-east windows of the Library unobstructed, which would therefore, upon the whole, continue to be better lighted than under the operation of the other plan.†

* It has been asserted, that there would exist great difficulty in sinking the foundations of the New Building so near the old, without endangering its safety: no person however who has witnessed examples of *shoring* up buildings, even for the purpose of replacing their foundations, can consider for one moment, such a danger serious: there is no practical builder in Cambridge who would not readily undertake the risk of effecting it. It is in order to give a more open area to the basement story, and greater spaciousness to the Senate House Passage, that Mr. Cockerell has brought the New Buildings so near to the Old.

† In Mr. Rickman's plan, the Mineralogical Museum is divided *obliquely* by the terminating wall of the present Library: it would be impossible therefore to complete the floors and fittings of this room and of the portion of the Library immediately above, inasmuch as they must both of them, in a great measure be broken up again, when the whole Library was finished: it would be expedient therefore to stop the new buildings at the termination of the Geological Museum, and the intermediate distance would afford an opportunity of forming
a tem-

The mention of Mr. Cockerell's plan in the discussion contained in the last paragraph, leads me immediately to some description of the plan itself, as a basis for the comparison of its merits, with those of the one which we have already considered.

Mr. Cockerell gives no artificial elevation to his building, the platform, on which it appears to be placed, being produced by lowering the ground in front of the Senate House; an operation extremely simple, cheap and absolutely necessary in order to give the proper effect to the Senate House itself, as well as to the surrounding buildings. If the same operation was continued throughout the whole area in front of the skreen of King's College, as was recently proposed by the Commissioners for Paving and Lighting, all the noble buildings which now adorn, or hereafter may adorn, this magnificent neighbourhood, would gain greatly in effect, inasmuch as they now suffer extremely from being placed upon a descending ground.

The principal front, which is co-extensive, and in the same line, with the present Library, presents a double Corinthian colonnade in the centre, and is flanked by two *stoæ*, forming an inferior order, one of which connects the building with the Senate House, and the other occupies a considerable part of the space between it and King's College Chapel. Such *stoæ* would give scale and magnitude to the principal building, a natural union with the Senate House, and great richness and variety of effect to the perspective of the whole group, in all the different approaches to it. They are not however essential to the design, however much they might contribute to its beauty, and there are some reasons which are not of an architectural nature, which might prevent their introduction. For my own part, I should be quite willing, to trust to the effect of the double colonnade, of which no example exists in England, and which would be unrivalled for depth and

a temporary staircase, of a much more convenient kind than if the new building was at once advanced up to the end of the present Library: the consideration of this subject will be resumed in a subsequent part of this pamphlet.

richness, and to the graceful proportions of the above elevation and its perfect harmony with the adjoining Senate House.

The elevation of which we are speaking, is not the immediate front of the Library, which is 20 feet behind it: the extent of this elevation is necessarily limited by the position of the Senate House, to that of the front of the present Library; and its height must therefore bear such a relation to its breadth, as may satisfy a just proportion of those dimensions to each other. But whilst this important condition is fulfilled, the Architect is enabled by the happy artifice of throwing the proper front of the Library back upon another line, to secure the following most important advantages:—First, a complete range of the Library from the ground of King's College to the Senate House Passage: secondly, a noble elevation to the Library itself, which the limitation of the height of the advanced front would not permit: and lastly, an ample Vestibule, Staircases, a Record Room, Ante Room to Library, Waiting Room, Porter's Apartments and a Librarian's Room, without intruding in any way, upon the continuity and arrangement of the Library itself, or of the subjacent Museums and Lecture Rooms. It constitutes in fact, the true and only solution of the very difficult and important problem of extending the principal building every where to the extremity of the disposable ground, and by that means of securing the spaciousness and light, which is not attainable in the other plans, however complete their internal arrangements might otherwise have been.

The principal building, the upper part of which forms the Library, is 187 feet long by 183 feet broad, and surrounds a Court whose length and breadth are 104 and 98 feet respectively. The general* interior width of all the rooms is 35 feet; the height of the lower rooms is $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet; that of the Library, to the top of the vaulted ceiling is 39 feet; all the rooms below, as well as the Library above, are lighted by windows *on both sides*†, placed in that position which experience and good taste have equally sanctioned.

* I must except the south east portion of the Building near Trinity Hall, which is only 31 feet wide, being limited by the form of the ground.

† A portion of the Museum named that of Zoology in the plan, which is next the Vice-Chancellor's Room, is lighted by windows looking to the west,

Auxiliary domical lights, are introduced into the Library, in order to enlighten the roof and the galleries. I believe the most careful examination would fail in pointing out a closet or corner, or any considerable space, to which a sufficient and *natural* light would not be able to penetrate.

The order of succession and dimensions of the several rooms are as follows:

The Record Room in the south east corner, 31 feet by 17: it is fire-proof, and being placed underneath a part of the staircase which leads into the Library, its height is not so great as that of all the other rooms which follow, though quite sufficient for the uses to which it is destined.

The Office of the Registry, is 35 feet by $15\frac{1}{2}$, communicating with the Record Room and Law School; it is placed on one side of the great entrance, and is lighted by windows from it and from the interior quadrangle. The Law School 52 feet by 35; the School of Physic 30 by 35; the School of Arts 30 by 35, and the School of Divinity 51 by 35, are placed *en suite*, communicating with each other, and with separate entrances leading into the quadrangle. In order to diminish the disproportion existing between the height and width of these Schools, and to stiffen and strengthen the floor of the Library above, there are pillars between each pair of windows, advanced $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the wall, and which reduce therefore the *perspective* width to 27 feet, which in these *short* rooms, is sufficiently well adjusted to their common height of $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet.* The spaces behind the pillars are slightly raised above the intermediate floor, and admit of a complete communication throughout the whole range of Schools, and would offer a singularly convenient promenade to the examiners when inspecting the

west, on one side only. This is the only portion of a room of very considerable width to which this objection would apply.

* The alternate pillars in the Schools and Museums support likewise the coupled columns of the Library above, from which the domes spring and enable the Architect to give not merely a much greater height to the Library than the external front would allow, but also to simplify and cheapen the construction of the roof.

examinations which are going on immediately beneath them. When the doors which would generally close these passages, and the intermediate folding doors are thrown open, these Schools form one entire room 165* feet in length, and would be admirably calculated for processions on occasions of ceremony, or, for any other purposes of exhibition. They would likewise form spacious and cheerful Lecture Rooms, not merely for the Professors of those faculties to whom three of them belong, but likewise for all the other Professors who have no apparatus to prepare or to exhibit.

The Plumian Lecture Room, which is 38 feet by 22, and capable of accommodating 136 persons, is placed in the south-west corner, in a position which would be sufficiently convenient for the peculiar Lectures which are to be given in it. In immediate connection with it, near to the grand entrance from Clare Hall, is placed his apparatus room, which is 19 feet by 15; and behind it, next to the quadrangle, is a small room, about 10 feet by 12, which may be used as a robing room or for any other purpose.

On the north of the entrance above mentioned, is placed a theatre, 53 feet by 40, capable of containing 236 persons; and immediately after it, we come to the Botanical Museum, which is 63 feet by 31.

Before we proceed farther, it will be proper to observe, that there is an ample basement story, extending completely underneath the west and north sides of the building; it is throughout 8 or 9 feet high, and lighted generally from an open area, but on the side next to Clare Hall, by windows entirely or nearly so above the ground. The fall of 5 feet in the ground, in passing from the east to the west front, presents this very great convenience, and

* Mr. Rickman has devoted 220 feet in length to these Schools, and has left them in a state in which they would afford no more accommodation to the University, than those which already exist. Let any dispassionate person compare this part of his plan with that of Mr. Cockerell, and he will at once perceive the immeasurable distance between them, in the propriety of their ornaments, in their adaptation to all the purposes contemplated, and lastly in the provision made for light and ventilation.

enables the Architect to add an additional story to his building, at a very small additional expence.

In the south west angle of this basement story, Mr. Cockerell has placed apartments for a Resident: it appears to me an arrangement equally required by prudence and good sense, to secure by this means, some constant guardianship and protection to buildings so extensive, and so full of precious articles of every kind. In the present building, the Library and Schools are locked up at the same hour, and the Woodwardian Professor and the Registrary, are the only persons besides the Librarian, who are authorized to enter it at a later moment. But in the new building, in which nearly all the Professors would have their Lecture Rooms or Workshops, and in which all the public collections would be deposited, it is of the utmost consequence that there should be an authorized guardian of the whole constantly on the spot, with whom the keys should be deposited, by whom the doors should be locked, the stoves lighted and extinguished, dirt and nuisances removed, strangers conducted, and any other services performed, which were connected with this most extensive and important establishment. It is not a little remarkable that both the Syndicates should have overlooked this most necessary provision, and the reparation of the omission, is an additional proof of the extraordinary care and watchfulness, with which Mr. Cockerell has examined and studied every part of the subject.

Underneath the Theatre and the range of Museums, are placed Workshops and Store Rooms, for the different Professors, sufficient in number and magnitude for every use for which they may be required: but as no directions were given for their precise nature or distribution, it is not to be expected that they should appear upon the plan in the positions or order or with the denominations, which would be ultimately assigned to them. In the same basement also, the stoves would be placed for warming the Museums and Library above them. In short, there is no provision made in any other plan, for a great multitude of minor, but important conveniences, which is any way comparable to what

has been effected by Mr. Cockerell, by this cheap, simple, and natural arrangement.*

The Museum of Mineralogy, which immediately succeeds to that of Botany, is 40 feet long and 35 feet wide; that of Geology which is next to it, is 57 feet long by 35; the last in order is that of Zoology, which is 93 feet by 35, and which occupies the whole space between the Senate House Passage and the Vice-Chancellor's room, which adjoins the grand entrance. The common height of all these Museums is $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet; and they form with the Museum of Botany, a continued range of 255 feet in length, an extent of accommodation of which no similar example exists in England, and which, if properly furnished, would speedily redeem the character of this University from the just charge of possessing no adequate means of teaching natural knowledge.

These Museums are lighted by windows on both sides, in the same manner as the Schools. The pillars which are introduced in the same manner likewise, would be incorporated in the cases in which the specimens are placed. The Workshops and Unpacking Rooms, are placed immediately below, and every required convenience is immediately at command. The Rooms are so completely lighted, that cases may be placed in all parts of the rooms, without having one side in shade. Their great width and perfect lightness also, would generally make them the most convenient of all Lecture Rooms, for those Professors to whom they belonged; and they would thus serve, in addition to their primary destination, very greatly to increase the amount of that species of accommodation, which has formed the great object of so many wishes, and so many enquiries.†

Some persons have contended, that an area of 63 feet

* We have remarked before the necessary absense of a basement story in Mr. Rickman's plan: and the impossibility of providing apartments for a resident which is unquestionably an object of first rate importance.

† In the course of the last summer, I had an opportunity of examining the principal Museums of Paris and Edinbough, with a particular view to the plans which were in agitation at Cambridge. I found the Museum of Zoology in the Jardin des Plantes, which is lighted by side windows in the roof,

by 31, is excessive for a Museum of Botany, and that it is not expedient to devote the space of 93 feet by 35, for a Museum of Zoology, however extensive the subject may be. It is very rarely that we have occasion to complain of too much accommodation, and it is quite clear that a similar charge cannot be advanced against the other plan. But whilst I may allow that the first space is larger than necessary for the object proposed, and that there might exist some reasonable doubt about retaining the second, yet I may very safely assert, that the University would feel no embarrassment about its useful appropriation. Thus, in the first place, a part of the space assigned for the Botanical Museum might be immediately converted into an excellent Lecture Room. A part of the Museum of Zoology might in that case be converted into a Museum of Botany, and the name of Zoology in the remaining part be replaced by that of comparative Anatomy. Changes like these are very simple and easy, when the only difficulty consists in a change of the position of the partitions of a room or series of rooms,

roof, dark and ill ventilated, even under the bright sky of the month of August. The fine range of rooms below, containing fossil and mineral geology, minerals, &c. shells, fishes, reptiles, &c. are lighted by large *French* windows on one side, generally, with a clear eastern aspect; the light is abundant, whenever the specimens were confined to the flat surface of the walls; but very imperfect, when specimens were suspended from the cieling, or placed in cases in the centre. The accommodation provided for the noble collections of comparative anatomy, is disgraceful to that great establishment. The Museum of Edinburgh is a magnificent room, possessing windows on one side, with a large sky-light; it is generally well and agreeably lighted, except on the side above the windows, and immediately below the roof, which derives light neither from the windows nor the sky-light. The most miserable of all species of lighting and ventilating, is that from the *flat* roof only, such as has been adopted in the large room above the King's Library in the British Museum, and such as was proposed by Mr. Rickman for the Library in his first design; this leaves the part of the roof which is not *window* as well as the wall immediately adjoining constantly in shade. If however the cieling is vaulted throughout, the same objection does not apply, and the shade altogether disappears. The same remark applies to a light placed in the apex of a dome, which illuminates the dome itself and the walls from which it springs, and of all species of *auxiliary* light is the most pleasing and satisfactory.

which are every where similarly circumstanced or very nearly so.*

The Vice-Chancellor's Room which is placed near to the grand entrance, is 22 feet long by 16, and is lighted in the same manner as the Office of the Registry: behind it is a small waiting-room, 12 feet by 11. These rooms were provided at the particular request of some Members of the first Syndicate, in consequence of a wish expressed by the Vice-Chancellor, who considered such a room as likely to be very useful on many occasions:† adjoining to the open vestibule, in the advanced front of the Library and beneath the Librarian's room, are placed two rooms which are destined to form apartments for a porter, whose dimensions are 19 by 18, and 20 by 18; if such a servant should not be deemed necessary in this part of the Library, the rooms in question might be appropriated to the use of the Vice-Chancellor, and the Vice-Chancellor's room thrown into the general space for the Museums.

We have now made the complete circuit of the rooms on the ground floor, and have returned to the grand entrance from which we started. This entrance is 16 feet wide, and $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, leading from the open vestibule and double colonnade on the east, to the interior quadrangle on the west; it is upon the same level with the court and the vestibule, and leads directly to a similar entrance descending by two flights of steps to Clare Hall; thus presenting a clear and uninterrupted view through the whole building from St. Mary's Church to Clare Hall, and throwing a full and beautiful light upon the colonnade from whatever point of view it may be seen.

Upon entering the Court, the spectator would find a wall bounding the great Theatre, of the same height with

* The areas of the Museums in this plan and in that of Mr. Rickman are 950 and 470 square yards respectively.

† It might be used by the Vice-Chancellor for occasional Syndicates, or when attending examinations or ceremonies at the Schools; or as a retiring room when holding courts in the adjoining Law School; or as a retiring room for the examiners generally, and for many useful purposes connected with the Library.

the bottoms of the Library floor, and pierced with windows for the Theatre and with doorways as entrances to the Museums, and adjusted so as to present a general character of symmetry with the adjoining wall of the Schools. The breadth of this portion of the quadrangle is 54 feet: such a wall however would intercept no portion of the sky-light from the windows of the Schools or the Museums; and as it would limit the view of the spectator to the upper part of the Court beyond it, it would possess some advantage in saving expense in the decoration of the interior of this part of the quadrangle*.

On the other side of this wall, is placed the great Theatre, a segment somewhat greater than a semicircle, whose radius is 32 feet; it is capable of containing 500 persons; and as it rises from the level of the basement story, the extreme height of the apex of its roof, is below the level of the Library floor, and it would not interfere materially therefore with the lighting of the adjacent Museums. I mention this circumstance more particularly, as the character of this building has been very greatly misunderstood, and quoted as a very serious objection to the adoption of this plan.

I have expressed, on more occasions than one, my own objections to the introduction of this immense Theatre, and there is nothing in the contrivance above-mentioned, though extremely ingenious, which should induce me to change my opinion. It appears to me, that two very sufficient Lecture Rooms might be introduced instead of it, which would be much more useful to the Professors, and which would form a much less awkward and embarrassing intrusion upon the space. If the area of the basement story was continued, as proposed in this plan, from the Museums to these Lecture Rooms, the whole space around them might be converted to various useful purposes, whether laboratories,

* If this wall and the adjoining theatre were removed, we should have a clear quadrangle sufficiently spacious to admit of considerable architectural effect: the entrances to it however would not bisect its sides, a defect of symmetry which must always form an objection in Grecian buildings, however unimportant in those of a different character.

workshops, and rooms of any description which might be required.*

The entrance to the Library is from an external staircase, in the grand vestibule, and passes through an ante room, which is placed above the Record Room; a perfectly similar external staircase leads from the vestibule immediately into the private room of the Librarian. Through this ante room the visitor passes into an octagonal room, surmounted by a dome, and presenting at once a view of the east and south Libraries, the length of one being 184 and of the other 187 feet. The general width of these rooms is 35 feet, and their extreme height is 39 feet. They are lighted by windows between the projecting cases on each side, as in the present Library, and with larger windows at the ends. A gallery runs above the windows on both sides, behind projecting coupled columns embracing the alternate cases, which are made to support a series of domical vaults, each of which has a sky-light in its apex to light the dome and the gallery immediately below it. There is an octagonal room similar to the first on the north-east corner, but none on the south-west and north-west. The west Library is restricted to a width of 31 feet, in consequence of the trending of the ground on the north-west corner of the site; there are entrances into the room for the Librarian and Syndics, which is $28\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, from the south Library; and likewise into two Reading rooms from the west Library, to which there is likewise a distinct staircase, whether private or public, from the corner of the building near to Trinity Hall.

Mr. Cockerell has given a perspective view of the interior of this Library, which has excited, and in my opinion most justly, almost universal admiration; every part of it is full of light; all its dimensions are noble, and in magnitude and spaciousness it would have no rival in Europe.

I have now concluded a very imperfect survey of all the parts of this building, and I have ventured to express what I do most sincerely feel, my almost unqualified ap-

* An open area on both sides of the basement story, would greatly improve its lighting and ventilation and fit it for almost any uses.

probation of the great beauty and propriety of the general design, and of the skill with which the different parts are distributed and adjusted to each other. The question however which the University is called upon to decide, is not one of absolute, but of comparative merit, and it may be worth while to consider the two designs in connection with each other, with respect to the principal points which those persons who are required to decide between them, would think it most important to notice.

Of the two buildings, proposed by the two Architects, the external character of one is accommodated to that of the adjoining Senate House, so that it may neither destroy its effect by projecting before it, nor make it look like an intruder by the incongruity of its style of architecture, nor overwhelm it by the magnitude of its parts, nor make it appear mean by the ambitious nature of its ornaments. Whatever opinion may be entertained of the exterior of Mr. Rickman's building, when considered by itself, there can be no doubt but that the Senate House has been more or less sacrificed to it, in all the particulars above enumerated.*

The exterior of one building tells its own tale immediately, as an edifice which is full of light, and every part of which is destined for use and occupation. Whilst that of the other would convey no idea to a spectator of the purposes for which it could have been built, or of the uses to which it could be applied. In other words, it is totally deficient in its character of appropriateness to its specific destination.

In one plan, there are 12 columns in the double colonnade, and one at each corner of the building. These four

* The more prominent parts of Mr. Rickman's building would be thrown, when seen in the approach down Trumpington Street, immediately upon the Senate House, which would thus appear to be *engaged* in another and larger building of a totally different character : in approaching nearer again, the magnificent flight of steps would be found within the distance of 25 feet from the flight of steps in the centre of the front of the Senate House, the effect of which would appear from contrast, extremely mean and insignificant. The Senate House however, is now one of the most beautiful buildings in Europe, and whilst the injury which it would receive from Mr. Rickman's building is certain, it is not equally certain that the University would be compensated by the beauty of its neighbour.

isolated columns, as well as the angles of the two pediments, are surmounted by statues. These constitute almost the only ornaments of the exterior, which are not absolutely required by the style of the Architecture. In the other, there are 38 large columns, a pediment filled with statues, 750 feet in length of sculptured friezes and pannels, and the whole building is surmounted by an enormous entablature. So far as the expenses which would be incurred by these decorations are concerned, the difference in the two buildings would be immense. It must be kept in mind, however, that this is a mere question of expenditure, totally unconnected with the beauty of the Architecture, or with the convenience of the plans.*

In one plan, the distribution of the rooms, as well as their lighting and ventilation, are simple, natural, and such as arises immediately from the character of the Architecture. In the other, we find a perpetual and unsuccessful struggle, between the fixed and intractable character of the Architecture, and the proper, convenient, and simple distribution, and lighting of the rooms.

In one plan we have a noble vestibule, a spacious entrance to the Court, simple and convenient staircases, with

* The responsibility incurred by a public body in expending large sums upon the mere decorations of a building becomes very serious, when it is extremely doubtful whether those decorations are consistent with good taste, or whether the building itself is properly adapted to its situation: and in the present instance, can either of these questions be answered to the satisfaction of the University? The Architect says that the sculpture may be omitted if required, but that the effect of the building would be richer, if it was introduced; a very vague statement, which would induce an indifferent person to suspect that he had himself no very distinct or vivid conception of what the effect of their introduction or omission might be: the real fact is, those ornaments which are not connected to a building by a much stronger necessity than what is here assumed to exist, cannot be introduced with safety, inasmuch as they may very possibly become a clumsy incumbrance to it, instead of a decoration. It is an easy thing to talk of 750 feet of sculptured frieze: but where is the artist now living who would form a series of designs worthy of being thus perpetuated? and where is the munificent patron of the arts who would be at the enormous charge of their execution? It is quite clear that the University as a body durst not or ought not to undertake it.

distinct and intelligible uses, with a *principal* entrance to the Library, at the point of all others which presents the most favourable view. In the other, we have a dark vestibule, a narrow entrance to the Court, two immense staircases one of which is entirely useless, two entrances to the Library at the most unfavourable points, whether for light or perspective effect. The area consumed for these purposes, in one plan is 124 square yards; in the other it is 304. I can refer to no other corresponding parts of the two plans, which exhibit the contrast of the simplicity, and therefore of the skilfulness of the arrangements of the two Architects so strikingly as these.

It is unnecessary, however, to pursue this comparison further, by bringing together observations which I have already made respecting corresponding parts of these plans, as it would only lead me to useless repetitions: and it is very obvious from what I have already said, that the judgement which I must feel compelled to pronounce, must be, *in every instance*, unfavourable to Mr. Rickman.


I am well aware of the noble work which Mr. Rickman has just completed in this University, and I fully share in the admiration which its exterior has so generally excited; he has there shewn himself to be in complete possession of the principles upon which the beautiful and magnificent effects of Gothic Architecture depend, and has gathered the matured fruits of the long and laborious study of the monuments of that style, which exist in this country. But it by no means follows that a great Gothic Architect, must on that account, be either in possession of the principles of another style, or successful in the application of them; or that the devotion of the labours of a life to the cultivation of one branch of art or of science, should supersede the necessity of a similar sacrifice to obtain the possession of another. I venture to advance this argument in no offensive sense, but for the purpose of rebutting a charge of presumption, which has been very frequently advanced against those who have disputed, in the present instance, the conclusion, that success in one great work, in one department of art, is a proper and necessary ground

of confidence of similar success, in a work of a totally different nature.

But it may be said, that in the whole of the preceding discussion, I have assumed the tone of a partisan, and that my opinions must therefore be received with the natural suspicion and distrust, which ought to attach to such a character. It is very true, that the extraordinary circumstances which accompanied the first competition, put me as well as others, into a relation with the different competitors, which made it extremely difficult to become impartial judges of their relative merits, in an entirely new trial. It was for this reason that I was well satisfied to be excluded from the New Syndicate, as it left me to the free exercise of my own opinions, or of my own prepossessions, if they are more correctly characterized by such a word. I am not aware however, that I have made any wilful misstatement in the details of the respective plans, and whatever colouring they may have received from the deep tinge of my own opinions or feelings, it is perfectly competent for every Member of the Senate before he gives his vote on this subject, to examine the plans themselves, and to ascertain by the evidence of his own eyes, and not by those of others, whether my criticisms are well founded or not.

Again, others may object to the authority of the opinions of any person, who is not himself an Architect, and who has not been prepared by the course of his habits or his studies, to transfer readily and accurately to his mind's eye, the realities which Architectural drawings and plans pretend to describe. I am perfectly satisfied however that there are very few persons who may be considered to be in the proper possession of this happy faculty; and to their judgement, if their existence could be in any case established, I would most willingly entrust the final decision of the present controversy*. But, in the absence of such

* It would be well for the University to adopt, in some degree at least, the custom which is generally followed on the Continent, of never selecting a plan for a building, without first receiving professional advice.



gifted individuals, it becomes the duty of the Members of the University, to make the best exercise of their own common sense; for there are some faults which the most ordinary observation can detect: and inasmuch as they are compelled by their situation to assume the office of judges, it becomes doubly incumbent upon them to make every exertion to prepare themselves for a proper performance of their duty.

But others will say, that we have delegated our authority to the Members of the Syndicate, to whose superior knowledge and opportunities of acquiring information we are perfectly ready to submit. But it must be kept in mind, that the exercise of such a power was denied to a former Syndicate, who possessed at least equal opportunities of forming a correct opinion, both of what was required and of what was proposed. And it would not be altogether just, that the University should be a democracy to day, when a particular object was to be gained by such a theory of its constitution, and should cease immediately either to be so or to be so considered, when a change of circumstances rendered such a change of our constitution desirable. The same party who contended so strenuously for popular rights when an advantage was to be gained, must be fully prepared for their free exercise, when they are likely to be sufferers by it.

It remains to notice but one more argument which has exercised great influence on this question, and which is certainly entitled to some consideration. It has been said that Mr. Cockerell has not complied with the last instructions, and that he has consequently excluded himself by his own act, from the terms of the last competition. It would in the first place be no very flattering compliment to Mr. Rickman, to say, that he was entitled to the prize upon such grounds, and upon such grounds only. But before we proceed farther, we beg to refer our readers, to some circumstances connected with the very remarkable clause in the instructions upon which this argument is founded: see page 22.

Did the Syndics intend that the Architects should be confined to the letter, or to the spirit of those instructions? If they meant the former, they must unquestionably have assumed a much more serious responsibility, than was justifiable either by prudence or good sense, and such as could not have been supposed, unless expressed in the most decided and absolute language.

If they did not intend to command, but simply to recommend the precise arrangement in question, they have no right to complain of the Architect, who has more than complied with the spirit, though not with the letter of their instructions; who has provided for all their wants by the most simple and natural means, and even for more than they ventured to ask at his hands: who has given them gold, when they asked for silver: who has given them light, when they asked for darkness: who has surpassed even the most sanguine hopes entertained of the capabilities of the ground for completely supplying every object which had ever been contemplated.

Again, the suggestion of extending the building to the extremity of the ground, was made by Mr. Cockerell himself, and though it received the warm approbation of several Members of the first Syndicate, its developement is entirely due to him. It has thus become his own property, which no other Architect could venture to adopt, without incurring the charge of plagiarism. I am far from thinking however, that any idea either has been, or could be entertained of such an appropriation; and the general arrangements of these plans, whichever may be finally adopted, are necessarily so far determined by this very circumstance, as to allow of very trifling modification.

But let us suppose that the instructions of the last Syndicate were absolute, and not recommendatory merely, and that no advantages however great and obvious, could justify a departure from them. It would at all events be but just to allow Mr. Cockerell to resume the arrangement of his first design, which would satisfy even the letter of these instructions, as completely as Mr. Rickman's; for that arrangement would

admit of the adaptation of the exterior of the building, as given in the second plan, *without alteration*, inasmuch as it is adjusted altogether to the extent of the present front of the Library. The east and west Libraries would be shorter by 40 feet respectively, and it might be expedient to make the width of the whole Building, and the height of the Library, somewhat less than before. But no other change in the principal Building would be necessary, and the Museums alone in the range of rooms below, would be sufferers to the extent of 80 feet in length. The two Lecture Rooms with the Apparatus and Model Rooms, would be placed as in the first plan, and it must be recollected that it was the only plan proposed, either in that competition or the present, in which they were so placed, as not to interfere *seriously* with the lighting of the adjacent Museums. If Mr. Cockerell's present plan was thus modified, entirely from his *own* materials, which have been already before the University, it would sufficiently satisfy the last instructions; and though I should consider such a compulsory change in the principle of his design, as an act of barbarism, I have no hesitation in saying, that even in this form, it would more completely satisfy the wants of the University, than the one which has now been recommended for adoption.*

I have hitherto made no allusion to the plan proposed by Mr. Wilkins, from a feeling of reluctance to mix up his name with a controversy, to the origin of which he is a stranger. He has followed very strictly the instructions of the Syndicate, and the arrangements of the interior of his building as well as its exterior, shew the hand of a great master of his art. The portico in front of his building, with all its accompanying decorations, would be nearly unrivalled in this country for propriety and good taste. And the same character of appropriateness and simple elegance, presents itself in every one of the other fronts of his building. His Library without much splendour

* Mr. Rickman's plan could not be adopted without changes nearly as considerable as those which I have mentioned as necessary to adapt Mr. Cockerell's plan to the letter of the last instructions.

or spaciousness, is full of accommodation; and though I might venture to point out many objections to the crowding together of his Museums and Lecture Rooms, and to other parts of the arrangement of his lower story, I must consider many of them as originating in the precise instructions of the Syndicate. I certainly think the plan proposed by Mr. Wilkins, to be superior to that of Mr. Rickman, and that it has not experienced from the Members of the University, the attention which it merits; and if I venture to express an opinion of the great superiority of that of Mr. Cockerell, I should ascribe it to the developement of the distinguishing principle of that design, which escapes the embarrassing difficulties from which both the others have suffered so seriously.*

Mr. Cockerell has estimated the expense of completing the whole range of the principal building from the Plumian Lecture Room to the end of the Geological Museum, with the Library above and the basement story below, at £25,700.† This would include the Plumian Lecture Room and Apparatus Room, a great Theatre to hold 236 persons, the Museums of Botany, Mineralogy, and Geology, extending through a length of 162 feet, nearly the whole of the basement story, including the apartments of a Resident, a very extensive range of workshops, unpacking rooms, and store rooms; also a spacious entrance to the interior court from Clare Hall, a staircase to the Library above from the same quarter, with the two Reading rooms, and 300 feet in length of the new Library: this portion of the new Library would communicate naturally and immediately with the present Library, by a temporary doorway, and would easily receive

* I trust that Mr. Wilkins will pardon the involuntary use which I have made of his name and accept the sincere assurance which I offer to him of my respect for his distinguished architectural talents and acquirements: and I feel satisfied that his reputation as an Architect, high as it most deservedly is, will suffer no injury from the most careful study and examination of his design.

† This estimate does not deduct the value (£1460.) of the materials of the Old Court of King's College, and does not include the fittings of the Library and Museums.

the whole of the books in the present Library, preparatory to its final removal; in fact there would be very few of the more pressing wants of the University, which might not, with the aid of a very few sacrifices, be very readily and immediately supplied*.

Mr. Rickman has estimated the expense of building the New Schools of Divinity and Arts, the Geological Museum, and about two thirds of the Museum of Mineralogy, with the portion of the Library above these rooms, the two Lecture Rooms, the Model and Apparatus Rooms, the two Rooms for the Syndics of the Library and the Librarian, with the several Workshops and Unpacking Rooms, at £27,810. This estimate does not include the fittings of the Library nor of the Museums, or deduct, the estimated value £1460. of the materials of the old buildings of King's College.

If we examine the rooms on the ground floor of the principal Building, which are proposed to be built in the first instance, it will be found that the Geological Museum† is the only one which could be completed and applied, according to its ultimate destination; for I have already mentioned some reasons why the portion of the Mineralogical Museum could not to be completed as proposed, and if it was so, it would leave no entrance whatever to the interior

* The collections of Mineralogy and Geology would be immediately transferred to their own Museums, which would become the Lecture Rooms of the Professors of those sciences: the collection of Comparative Anatomy might be placed in the Museum of Botany, the Professor of Botany retaining his room in the Botanic Garden: the Jacksonian Professor would likewise retain his present room: the Plumian Professor would retain his present room, or remove to the new one provided for him: the Professor of Chemistry might secure a workshop underneath or near the Great Theatre; and if one of the small Lecture Rooms which I should propose for the middle of the Interior Court was erected, it might be immediately converted to his use: it would not be possible to make any use of any part of the old buildings of King's College, the space occupied by which would not be immediately wanted, inasmuch as it would be quite necessary, for the convenience of carrying on the new buildings, that the whole of the *old* should be removed at the same time.

† The length of this Museum is 72 feet, its width 32, its area 256 square yards: the length of Museums which would be completed in Mr. Cockerell's plan is 160 feet: their width 35: their area in square yards 620.

Court, except from King's College. The Schools of Divinity and Arts, the only other two rooms in this range, would not be wanted for their proper uses, and would not be convertible into temporary Museums, nor even into Lecture Rooms, in consequence of their insufficient lighting, which we have had occasion to notice before. Again, the portion of the Library above these rooms extending upon a central line for 185 feet, would abutt obliquely upon the present Library, if completed as proposed, and even if terminated with the Geological Museum, it would render the proper junction of the old and new floors and ceilings (in consequence of settlements which are experienced in all new buildings) extremely difficult and embarrassing. The same difficulty would present itself at the other extremity likewise; for in neither case is there any natural *break* in the character of the Architecture, which would render any small variation of level at the juncture of the parts insensible, and therefore unimportant.

Such a Library terminated in the manner described, would at least look extremely awkward, until the whole was completed, and it could only be approached by a temporary staircase from the present Library, whilst it existed, and by another from the Court, or from the north-west corner, during the process of its re-building. The whole undertaking in fact, would lead to a great number of temporary arrangements, which would add very greatly to the expense, and be productive of the most serious inconvenience.*

* Thus, the portion of the Mineralogical Museum if completed as proposed, must be emptied of all its contents, and its cases removed, before the entire room could be finished, when the present Library is re-built. If the Schools of Divinity and Arts were attempted to be fitted up for Museums or for any other purposes different from their final destination, they must be despoiled in a similar manner. There would be no entrance to the Court, (unless by destroying the present School of Arts,) except that from King's College, which is not under the controul of the University. The Library, the Rooms for the Librarian and for the Syndics of the Library, could only be entered by external and temporary staircases, during the whole period of re-building the present Library, and the use of the two last of them, must be almost necessarily abandoned. In fact, there would be no prospect,
in

The length of the Library which would be completed in Mr. Cockerell's plan, would be upon a central line 276 feet, including the whole of the west Library and also the whole of the north Library except the octagonal room at the north-east corner. They would both of them terminate in parts marked by a natural break and transition in the Architecture,* and would present a character of completeness, which would be altogether wanting in Mr. Rickman's plan. It would very easily likewise accommodate *all* the books in the present Library;† and inasmuch as it is furnished with rooms for the Librarian and Syndics, and a permanent staircase, it would in every respect serve the purposes of the University for the very considerable interval of time, which might possibly elapse between the completion of the first and the second parts of the design.

From what source however must the funds be derived for the completion of the first and most essential part of

in the course of ten years at least, of making any material and *permanent* addition to the present accommodation of the University, beyond the two Lecture Rooms and the Geological Museum.

* The cieling in Mr. Cockerell's plan forms domical compartments, extending over two sets of cases and two pairs of external windows. They are connected by circular arches or bands, forming thereby a marked transition in the Architecture: they are less subject likewise to any lateral subsidence, in consequence of each pair of coupled columns from which the adjoining domes spring, having a common support, and therefore in a great measure a common settlement. It is for these reasons, that this Library might be completed by successive domes, in any manner which might be deemed convenient; and the pilasters in the external Architecture, would present so many successive resting places, by which the junction of the old and new parts would be entirely masked.

† This portion of the Library, if completed as proposed, with the galleries and the low cases in each class, (which their great width of 12 feet would allow) would hold above 150,000 volumes, allowing 130 square feet to 1000 volumes. It would not only hold therefore the whole of the books of the present Library (about 100,000 volumes) but likewise the additions which would be made to them during the next 10 years. The portion of Mr. Rickman's Library which is proposed to be completed, would not hold, upon the same calculation, more than 90,000 volumes; and it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to stow away into it, with any due regard to their arrangement or classification, the books in the present Library, during the time of its re-building.

this plan? The question is one of great importance, and of no small difficulty; and the answer to it requires a very careful and a very cautious enquiry.

The estimate given by Mr. Cockerell for the first part of his plan is £25,700; though I fully believe it to have been most cautiously made, we will suppose that it may extend, in order to meet various and incidental changes and charges, to £29,000, or £30,000. To this sum must be added £7000. for fittings of the Library and of the Museums, making in all £37,000; and the question is, in what manner is this sum to be raised?

A report of a Syndicate made in the month of April last, made the disposable capital of the University about £13,000. after all claims upon it were satisfied, and after leaving a balance of £5,000. (exclusive of a great amount of bills not due,) in the hands of the Vice-Chancellor, for the purpose of carrying on the ordinary business of the University. And it appeared from the Report of a former Syndicate, which was appointed to inquire into the income and expenditure of the University, that the excess of the income above the *ordinary* expenditure was about £2500. It was expected however that this excess would speedily become much greater, in consequence of the increased activity and capabilities of the Public Press, the trading profits of which form the great source of the income of the University. It would not therefore be unreasonable to suppose that the sum which could be safely allowed from the University chest, would be £12,000. at the commencement of the work at Midsummer 1831, and an additional £5000. before its completion in 1833. And it would follow therefore, that £20,000. at least must be provided by extraordinary means.

Various plans have been proposed for this purpose, and amongst others, an appropriation of the funds of the Library which were provided by a Grace of the Senate in 1825. In order to form a proper opinion of the expediency of this plan, it will be necessary to commence with a short enquiry into the amount and nature of all the existing funds for the use of the Library, and into the manner in which they are expended.

There is the Worts' fund, which is the variable surplus of several specific trusts, the average amount of which has been, of late years, nearly £500: it is expended entirely under the direction and controul of Worts' trustees, and has been appropriated by them *generally* to the purchase of books on Natural History, or works of a splendid and costly nature.

There is the Rustat fund, the income of which is nearly £200. per annum, which is under the controul of Trustees, who are directed to purchase *choice* books, which are not to be allowed to go out of the Library. It has not been applied to the uses of the Library for several years, nor will it be so, until a considerable debt, incurred by the anticipation of its receipts, has been repaid. I am not aware at what period it will come into operation again.

There is the Manistre fund of £150. per annum or nearly, the *produce* of £5,000. stock, lately left by the Rev. Mr. Manistre of King's College, for the use of the Public Library; this is now available for the purchase of *complete* sets of books only.

There is the fund which arises from the contribution of 1s. 6d. quarterly, by every Member of the University, (Sizars excepted) resident or non-resident, whose name is upon the boards of any college: it last year produced the sum of £1450. 10s. and its amount is slowly increasing from year to year, with the increase of the number of Members of the University.

When this fund was established by a Grace of the Senate, it was expressly stipulated that the salaries of the Librarian; Library Keepers and of the London Agents, together with the expences of repairs and new cases, amounting to nearly £650. per annum, should continue to be paid out of the University chest. And it was also expressly stated that the whole proceeds of this fund, should be applied to the purchase and binding of books.

The expences of binding books, amounting to nearly £250. per annum, and of the purchase of foreign journals and periodical publications, amounting to nearly £200. per annum, had been previously defrayed from the University chest; the

additional fund therefore which was thus provided for the Library, was about £1000. per annum, the University chest being benefited therefore, indirectly, to the extent of nearly £450. annually. It is now two years since the Vice-Chancellor began to deduct £500. per annum from this sum, leaving the Library benefited therefore by the Grace of 1825, to the extent of £500. per annum only *; and it is proposed by some persons to appropriate this sum likewise for several years to come, to the general fund for re-building and enlarging the Library. Before this is allowed to be done, however, it will be proper to consider its consequences, both as regards the Library itself, and the general convenience of the Members of the University.

It appears that more than £200. annually is expended in the purchase of foreign periodical publications, and it is said to require at least £400. more to supply the Library annually with the most valuable part of the current literature of the continent of Europe and America. If to these sums be added £250. for binding, there would be a deficiency of £400. annually, in case the second proposal was acceded to; and inasmuch as the disposal of all other funds, excepting that of Mr. Manistre, is limited by the conditions of the bequests, or placed beyond the immediate controul of the Librarian, such purchases however necessary and important, must be in a great measure abandoned.

Those persons who like myself have experienced the full benefit of possessing the power of an immediate reference to the most valuable literature of the day, whether domestic or foreign, and who can procure, through the watchful exertions of the Librarian, whatever works may be required for a specific enquiry or research, would feel most sensibly the inconveniences which would result from the proposed appropriation of this fund to purposes foreign to its original destination: and it is no sufficient answer to say, that this diversion of the ordinary supplies of the Library,

* Unless this deduction be sanctioned by a specific Grace of the Senate, there is now £1000. due to the Library Fund: it may be convenient to appropriate it hereafter to the fittings of the new Library.

would be temporary only. For in what manner are the wants of the Members of the Senate, many of whom are now residing in Cambridge, expressly for the purpose of enjoying the assistance derived from this Library, to be supplied in the mean time? The lapse of a few years, which may appear trifling to a permanent institution, may comprehend the whole period of activity of those very persons whose interests in this question, are the most deeply concerned.

Again, if these funds of the Library should once be diverted from their original object, who can venture to fix the period when they will be replaced? New wants will spring up from year to year, which some men will consider equally or perhaps more pressing than those which are now under consideration: and very little scruple will be felt about continuing for a little longer, that misappropriation of funds, which has already received the sanction of a precedent.

But there are many other reasons which I should venture to urge against the adoption of this very unhappy proposal. The flourishing state of our Public Library, has lately become a subject of pride and constant interest to every resident and to many non-resident, Members of the Senate. Every exertion is made to supply its deficiencies, not for purposes of ostentation, but of use, and it promises to become, if its progress be not arrested, in a very few years, the best consulting Library in the kingdom*. If, however, the University should cease, as is proposed, to maintain this supply of the best books, on all subjects and in all languages, its attractions will decline from year to year, the Librarian will cease to labour, the Student will cease to recommend or to enquire, and the whole establishment will speedily relapse into the state of torpor

* The Library at Gottingen, by a *constant* attention for many years to the supply of cotemporary literature, and the purchase of the best, (not the rarest) books in every department, has become the best consulting Library in Europe. The British Museum from the irregular and interrupted nature of its supplies, though full of riches, is a very bad Library.

and neglect, from which it has been rescued within so short a period.

So far therefore from seeking to appropriate any portion of this Library tax, to any foreign uses, however pressing and important they might be, I would even wish to increase its amount by extending its operation to the sizars. The scruple which exempted this class of students in the first instance, always appeared to me very unnecessary, inasmuch as the sum paid is so trifling, as to become almost insensible in the amount of the expenses, even of the poorest and most economical student. But there are nearly 500 persons (300 sizars, whether bachelors or undergraduates, and 210 ten-year men *) who are referred to this class, and the mere effect of numbers makes the loss to the University, very sensibly felt.

If this addition (£150. per annum) was made to the produce of this tax, I think it would in that case be reasonable to charge it with all the fittings of the New Library. Such an appropriation of it likewise would have the appearance at least of being perfectly conformable to the original destination of the fund, and would tend to remove the apprehensions of those persons, who believè that if the stream was once diverted from its original channel, it would never regain it. †

Upon the same principle likewise, I would charge the fittings of the Geological Museum upon the Woodwardian fund: this amounts at this moment to more than £1700.; and the appropriation of the whole, or of a part of it to

* The ten-year men were included in this exemption, in consequence of the vagueness of the terms of the Grace by which the tax was imposed. It was never intended, and I believe it was never wished, that they should escape its operation, and those who are Members of Trinity and Magdalene Colleges have always paid it through their sponsors.

† If a composition in one sum (say £4. 4s.) was accepted in lieu of these quarterly payments, the funds of the Library would be greatly benefited by it, and a very considerable sum would be immediately raised, which might be appropriated to the specific object above mentioned. Such an arrangement would be likewise very convenient to those Colleges, which accept a composition in lieu of all the payments made by Members of the Senate, particularly if it was extended so as to include the Paving as well as the Library tax.

this purpose, would be perfectly consistent both with the terms and with the spirit of Dr. Woodward's will.

We should thus reduce the sum to be provided by other means to £15,000. If this sum was borrowed from the Exchequer Loan Office, at 4 per cent. it would require an income of £1350. in the first instance, to pay the interest and the original portion (5 per cent.) of the principal which is required by the Act of Parliament. It would be quite sufficient for our present purpose therefore, if we could shew that there exist very simple expedients by which this and more than this may be done.

The Matriculation fees paid to the University chest (exclusive of the Government tax and fees to the Registry) by different classes of Students are as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
Noblemen	7	17	6
Fellow-Commoners	3	7	6
Pensioners	1	5	0
Sizars	0	3	9

These fees were fixed to their present amounts, by a Grace of the Senate in 1825, and were so regulated that their average amount, combined with the fees for Bachelors degrees, should defray, or nearly so, the charges incurred in the various examinations and in the maintenance of the discipline of the University.

The Building of Lecture Rooms and Museums, and the proper furnishing of them, being chiefly designed for the benefit of our Students, it is but reasonable that they should bear the chief part of the charge: and it is upon this principle, which has been already in some measure recognized by the University, that I would propose the following new payments, the produce of which should be exclusively appropriated to this object.

An addition of £2. 10s. to the Matriculation fees of all Noblemen, Fellow-Commoners, and Pensioners, exempting Sizars: this would produce £1000. annually, if the number of such Matriculations should keep up to the average of the last five years.

A payment of 5s. each term by every *resident* Undergraduate, and of 10s. each term by every *resident* Graduate:* if we estimate the number of resident Undergraduates, (including Sizars) at 1500, and of resident Graduates at 300, these payments would annually produce the sum of £1575.

The joint produce of these payments would not merely enable the University to borrow £20,000. but would provide a fund for its repayment in less than ten years.

It is very possible that some objections might be raised to these additional payments, upon the plea of their increasing the expenses of education, which are already so considerable. I should think, however, that the advantage gained by thus increasing the means of instruction, and by thus supplying new motives for study, an overmatch for the cost incurred: and I have no doubt but that the Undergraduates themselves, their parents and guardians, and the public generally, would coincide in my opinion. It is the want of a regular employment in which the mind is interested, which generates habits of idleness, and therefore of expense; and I know of no more certain method of reducing the expenses of University education, than by increasing in every way the motives and opportunities for acquiring knowledge.†

* If proper Reading Rooms were provided in the New Library, I can see no reason why the Undergraduates generally should not be allowed to consult books, whilst the privilege of taking them to their own rooms should be confined to Graduates. It would require two rooms, in one of which the catalogues would be placed, and an additional Library Keeper, for procuring the books which might be asked for, and for replacing them afterwards in their proper places in the Library.

† Every person who has been engaged, like myself, in the business of public tuition, must be well aware that there are many Students, who by illness, disappointment, or other causes, are thrown out of the current of the regular academical studies, and who are removed thereby beyond the influence of those powerful motives for exertion, which the honors, and rewards of the University present. To such persons it is of the utmost importance, that the tutor should be able to recommend, those new lines of study, and to furnish those new hopes of distinction, which regular and systematic courses of public lectures, with their necessary accompaniments, would so abundantly supply.

There are many other sources of income which might be pointed out, but I know of none which are so reasonable, so simple, and so just, as those which I have proposed: I say reasonable, because so moderate in amount, that no Student would sensibly feel their pressure: simple, because admitting of immediate collection, without trouble and loss, at the same time and through the same hands, with the existing taxes for paving and lighting and for the Library: just likewise, because they would be paid by those persons only, for whose express benefit, either immediate or future, they were intended. If the object proposed was one of ostentation merely, and not for the essential improvement of our system of academical education, I should be the last person to recommend, or to attempt to justify the imposition of any tax which should extort one shilling from the pockets of the Undergraduates.

Before I conclude this pamphlet, which has extended to so great and so unexpected a length, I beg leave again most earnestly to call the attention of the Members of the Senate, to the great importance of the decision which they are called upon to give. The proper execution and arrangements of the work to be done, involve most seriously the scientific character of the University, as well as the convenience of all its Members. The character of its architecture and its adaptation not merely to its specific objects, but also to the noble buildings in the neighbourhood, involves not merely the splendour of the University, but our reputation for good taste. Whilst the justice of the decision, as far as the Architects themselves are concerned, involves not merely our character for impartiality in the distribution of our rewards and honors, which constitutes the real glory of the University, but must very materially affect the confidence which in any future competition of a similar nature, would be reposed in our judgement.

supply. Even the most idle and dissipated of our Students, would thus be deprived of those excuses for their folly, which sometimes baffle the most assiduous of our tutors; and the tutors themselves would acquire an additional power of remonstrance with all classes of their pupils, which would produce the best effects upon the studies and character of the University.

ERRATA AND ADDITIONS.

Page Line

- 9 7 from top: *for* "though sufficiently" *read* "though otherwise sufficiently."
- 9 12 from top: *for* "Of this kind" *read* "Of this latter kind."
- 23 Note: add, "unless we suppose the basement and colonnades to intrude at least 5 or 6 feet upon the ground belonging to King's College."
- 26 4 from bottom, Note, *for* "we" *read* "they."
- 27 2 from top: *for* "north" *read* "north side."
- 27 4 from top: add Note: "or 68 feet by 54 if such be the width of the interior court."
- 27 12 from top: *for* "two steps" *read* "three steps."
- 27 11 from bottom: add Note: it seems doubtful from the plans whether the projecting cases are intended to be on both sides of these entrances or on one side only.
- 29 11 from top: add: "and also masked by two enormous columns."
- 45 Additional Note: It may be proper to state that the centres of the columns of the portico in Mr. Rickman's plan are in the same line with the end of the Senate House, and that the flight of steps which leads to it, with their flanking basement, intrudes nearly 10 feet upon the space in front of it: if Mr. Cockerell had not respected the Senate House more than Mr. Rickman, he might have added 16 feet to the lengths of his North and South Libraries; and even by so doing, no part of the front of the Senate House would have been masked by his building.

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